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OPINION METER

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Ukraine appeals for international help against Russian invasion.

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Kagman III decries 'worst roads'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Kagman III residents have had about enough of driving on what arguably are the worst roads on Saipan and is urging the government to do something—anything—to alleviate their long-standing problem, which affects not only residents but off-island visitors as well who explore Saipan's tourist sites.

"Sometimes I see tourists go to Forbidden Island. To tell you the truth, I am ashamed to even go outside when they come back within 5 minutes of entering in there, because who wants to drive there with an ugly looking road like that, that's dangerous," said one resident.

Unfortunately, the road going to For-

bidden Island it is not an isolated case as Kagman III's dilapidated roads have had little to no attention by the government for more than a decade, causing significant public inconvenience.

Cracks, deep holes, and fissures on roads have always been the biggest prob-

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JAYSON CAMACHO

Beware of that vegetation cover in the middle of a Kagman III street. It hides a deep pothole that could break a car's axle.

Global brand also for Coral Ocean Point

» 'Hotel occupancy at 101 percent'

» E Land eyes May completion for COP renovation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

South Korean investment giant E Land announced yesterday plans for a global hotel brand also for Coral Ocean Point

Resort Club, which claims a 101-percent hotel room occupancy in February for 80 renovated rooms so far, just weeks after starting to accept hotel guests once more on Dec. 29.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tae Ho Kim, chief operating officer of E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc., announces plans for a global brand for Coral Ocean Point Resort Club while COP operations manager Dennis Seo, background, looks on at a news briefing yesterday.

House approves Fitial extradition resolution

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives debated and adopted yesterday a resolution "respectfully requesting" Gov. Eloy S. Inos to take the necessary steps for the extradition of former governor Benigno R. Fitial to face the criminal charges filed against him.

House Resolution 18-56, authored by acting speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) and six other members, passed at 2:47pm by a vote of 13-3, with one abstention and three absences.

An official copy of the resolution will now be sent to Inos, who

See FITIAL on Page 4

House sends casino bill to Senate, again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After a two-hour debate mostly on proposed amendments, the House of Representatives passed at 5:28pm yesterday a new bill that allows casino gaming on Saipan.

This is the fourth time that the House has sent a casino gambling measure to the Senate in four years, each of them rejected in one form or another; the last one was only four months ago when senators "shelved" the third bill.

As of last night, there's no telling whether the casino gaming bill,

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PICKS OF THE WEEK

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Local

Woodruff's \$185K OK'd; Jorgensen's \$800K is placed under advisement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood approved yesterday the \$185,000 in attorney's fees and costs for Betty Johnson's local counsel, Stephen Woodruff, and said she will consider the \$800,000 in attorney's fees and costs for Johnson's original counsel, Bruce Lee Jorgensen.

The CNMI government has agreed to pay \$185,000 to Woodruff and \$800,000 to Jorgensen for their representation in Johnson's class action. The separate settlement agreements, however, are subject to court approval.

Tydingco-Gatewood also stated that she will order CNMI autonomous agencies to submit their contributions to the Settlement Fund on time or an order to show cause will be issued against them for being delinquent.

In Settlement Fund trustee Joyce CH. Tang's status report, Tang disclosed, among other things, that as of the pay period ending Jan. 25, 2014, there is an outstanding due from the autonomous agencies in the total amount of \$172,402.

The three top delinquent autonomous agencies are the Public School System, the Northern Marianas College, and the Commonwealth Health Corp.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos attended the hearing that lasted almost five hours. Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the governor to appear at the hearing as the court believes his attendance and participation

is essential at the proceedings.

In his brief statement to the court, Inos said the Settlement Fund has been in transition from the pre-settlement to the first quarter period.

Inos said there were some problems and that he understands that the CNMI government and the Fund trustee have been able to resolve the matter.

The governor said he looks forward to the second status report of the Settlement Fund and that he is hoping it will be better.

On Woodruff's \$185,000 fees, Tydingco-Gatewood said the CNMI government's proposed settlement with Woodruff has no objection. She also noted that Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris, who presided over the settlement agreement, recommended its approval.

"The court will approve the fees," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

The judge gave Woodruff and the CNMI government until March 7, 2014, to submit the final draft of the settlement agreement.

Under the payment schedule, the government will pay the amount to Woodruff on May 2, 2014.

Woodruff said it's a good settlement, although its less than half of Johnson's counsel Bronster Hoshibata law firm's recommendation of \$400,000.

With respect to Jorgensen's \$800,000 proposed settlement fees, Tydingco-Gatewood said she is placing it under advisement for two reasons.

First, Tydingco-Gatewood said she agrees with Johnson's counsel, Robert Hatch, that the

court should see how the settlement agreement with Jorgensen is written. The judge said transparency is important for the benefit of the class and the CNMI government and to persons who donated to Jorgensen.

Second, Tydingco-Gatewood said, she wants to figure out what the court will do with respect to Johnson's other counsel, Timothy Lord's petition for attorney's fees and costs.

The judge ordered the government and Jorgensen to submit the final draft of the settlement agreement on or before March 14, 2014.

On Lord's petition, Jorgensen said he believes that the lawyer's contribution in the case was only between 1 percent to 5 percent.

Lord had a hard time answering Tydingco-Gatewood's question of how much he contributed in assisting Jorgensen in the case but later said he deserves to be paid \$400,000.

Lord said he and Jorgensen had no written or oral agreement with respect to attorney's fees.

Assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan asked the court to deny Lord's petition in its entirety. Sablan said there's no legal value to Lord's work, and no benefit to the class and the outcome of the caser.

Jorgensen's initial request was at least \$18.6 million, while Woodruff was \$2.9 million. Lord's initial demand was either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million.

Bronster Hoshibata is demanding \$17.5 million, but the court placed the petition under advisement.

Alleged No. 2 of 'ice' suppliers kept detained

The federal court ordered yesterday the continued detention of Yu Hua Wang, allegedly the second in command of a group of drug suppliers on Saipan, pending further proceedings in the case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona determined that Wang poses a flight risk and noted that the large amount of meth involved in the case—135.6 gross grams—implicates a serious punishment.

"The seriousness of the charges was established," Manglona said.

Except for having a minor daughter, Wang has no ties in the community and has also no legal investment, Manglona said.

She noted that Wang has a prior arrest for "ice" charges, although the case was later dismissed in Superior Court.

Manglona said the evidence against Wang, including audio and video recordings, provides

clear and convincing evidence that no condition of release will assure the community's safety.

The judge set the preliminary hearing for March 10.

Manglona said that Robert T. Torres, as court-appointed counsel for Wang, can coordinate with the Division of Youth Services if Wang wants to communicate with his daughter. DYS has custody of the child.

Manglona said that Torres will continue as Wang's counsel until the U.S. Probation Office completes a financial affidavit of the defendant.

Probation officer Margarita Wonenberg said that Wang declined to complete his financial affidavit and at first stated he would hire his own lawyer, but later changed his mind, saying he wants to keep Torres as his court-appointed counsel.

Torres had sought for Wang's temporary release

upon posting a property bond plus other conditions.

Torres cited, among other things, that no firearm was involved in the case, there was no report that Wang violated the pre-trial conditions in his previous Superior Court case, and he has a minor daughter.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy opposed Wang's release.

Wang was among seven persons recently arrested by joint local and federal law enforcement agencies for alleged "ice" distribution.

Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Jacqueline R. Gordon disclosed in court documents that Wang and Xing Bo Fang distributed "ice" on Dec. 27, 2013.

Gordon said Fang, who is the alleged leader of "ice" distributors on Saipan, is the source of "ice" supply for several Chinese nationals, including Wang. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Hospital deficit at \$6.1M, records show

»Outsourcing of corporation financial management eyed

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. posted a deficit of \$6.142 million in fiscal year 2013, based on records obtained by the *Saipan Tribune*.

The records show that the corporation earned a total of \$30.4 million last fiscal year, while its operating expenses reached \$37.9 million—an operating loss of \$7.4 million.

Because CHCC also registered an additional \$1.087 million in non-operating income, this lowered the deficit to \$6.399 million, less the \$256,704 net assets recorded in the beginning of fiscal year 2013.

Based on records, the corporation's financial performance last fiscal year is far different than what was recorded in fiscal year 2012, when the agency posted a \$256,704 surplus that was used as the beginning net

asset for fiscal year 2013.

Of the \$30.4 million revenue posted last fiscal year, \$28.6 million was generated from hospital services while \$1.8 million was from "other revenue." An additional \$5,500 was generated as "contributions."

For its \$37.9 million operating expenses, the highest expenditures were personnel wages and salaries, \$16.6 million; employee benefits, \$4.5 million; professional services, \$913,500; recruitment/repatriation, \$248,823; back wages, \$83,615; communications, \$171,652; travel, \$177,446; repair and maintenance, \$674,550; utilities, \$5.7 million; cleaning services, \$545,975; other services/penalty charges, \$240,023; medical general supplies, \$3.3 million; medical lab supplies, \$1.062 million; pharmaceutical supplies, \$1.4 million; office and operations supplies, \$236,681; machinery tools and equipment,

\$1.2 million; fuel and lubricants, \$129,106; and food items, \$169,775; among other items.

Other operating expenses included advertising, \$12,190; official representation, \$16,405; board and other compensation, \$420; dues and subscription, \$22,365; printing and photocopying, \$85,795; licenses and fees, \$47,967; rental, \$10,247; freight and handling, \$65,623; computer system and equipment, \$17,377; and office equipment, \$1,488.

Comparison to FY 2012

A few items under the fiscal year 2013 financial statements indicated significant changes: personnel wages and salaries were slightly up from \$15.8 million to \$16.6 million.

Professional service expenses last fiscal year also increase from \$469,594 in fiscal year 2012 to \$913,556 in fiscal year 2013. Re-

pair and maintenance costs also increased from \$360,675 in 2012 to \$674,550 in 2013.

Utilities expenses jumped from \$4.9 million in 2012 to \$5.7 million last fiscal year.

Supplies cost also jumped, from just \$1.6 million for medical general supplies in 2012 to \$3.3 million last fiscal year. Medical lab supplies were also up from \$499,939 in 2012 to \$1.062 million in 2013.

Still based on records, the corporation posted total operating revenues of \$29.6 million in fiscal year 2012, of which \$28.2

million came from hospital services, \$1.3 million from "other revenues," and \$18,000 from "contributions." The corporation also generated \$3.6 million in non-operating income. Its operating expenses totaled \$33.050 million, while surplus for the year reached \$256,704.

Serious concern

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres described the organization's financial performance in fiscal year 2013 as "a serious concern." He said he feels disappointed after reviewing the financial data.

This, he said, is one reason why the corporation needs to fill the long-vacated post of chief financial officer to bring in an expert

who would manage the agency's finances. Torres wants a CFO named within a month or two.

"A CFO will play an important role in the organization. We've been having problems with our financial system for so long...and we need to address that," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He also hinted at the possibility of "outsourcing" the corporation's financial system to ensure that jobs are performed as expected.

Whether that will be pursued or not when a permanent CFO is appointed remains unknown at this time, according to Torres.

The board is expected to tackle the corporation's financial standing at its next meeting.

Board to tap private lawyer to pursue ICS case

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. wants to tap the services of a private lawyer to pursue its case against the agency's former billing and collection contractor, which up to this time has not returned the money the corporation wrongfully gave it.

This was the consensus reached by the corporation board during Thursday's special meeting after learning that the International Consulting Services has yet to return the money.

The CHCC has been running after Idaho-based ICS since 2012 to retrieve a total of \$187,000, representing \$150,000 that was wrongfully deposited to the company's account and \$37,000 in advanced payment for services that did not materialize.

On Thursday, interim CEO Esther Muña said she has nothing new to report on the ICS matter as the Office of the Attorney General has yet to act on the issue.

It's been almost two years

since the government terminated the contract of then-hospital contractor ICS, but nothing has been moving on the "investigation" of the Office of the Public Auditor and the OAG.

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres recommended to fellow trustees that they hire a private lawyer who would specifically work on the ICS issue.

"If the OAG can't commit [to this matter], our plan is to tap the services of a private counsel who can handle the job for us. That's the consensus of the board," Torres later told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres said he plans to meet with Attorney General Joey San Nicolas next week to clear, once and for all, whether the agency has time to do it for the corporation.

Board officials said they have been following up on the ICS issue but have yet to get a response from both the OAG and OPA, which are investigating the matter.

In an earlier interview, San Nicolas confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that there is an ongoing investigation but he could not

give a timeframe as to when it will be completed.

The CHCC board pointed out that the nearly \$200,000 the corporation is trying to recoup from the company is no small amount for the government to ignore.

ICS secured a six-year, sole-source contract in February 2012 to do billing and collection work for the hospital. Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham later determined the contract to be costly and unlawful and issued a cease-and-desist order.

The fallout from that failed deal resulted in the sudden termination of the hospital's chief operating officer, James Phillips, as he was the direct contact for the agreement and the matter was referred to the OAG for prosecution.

The board earlier wanted not only an investigation on the Idaho-based company itself but also on the potential involvement of a corporation director who, based on the board's internal probe, may have had a hand in the company's "illegal" transaction with the corporation.

Trial of ex-resort staff accused of rape begins

The jury trial of Bradley Demapan, a former resort employee accused of raping a female tourist, began yesterday in the Superior Court.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom late afternoon yesterday, a tour guide had just started his testimony for the CNMI government.

A Korean woman, the companion of the alleged victim, was the government's first witness.

Assistant attorneys general Barbara Cepeda and Heather Barcinas are prosecuting the case. Attorney Steven Pixley is counsel for Demapan.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding over the trial.

The Office of the Attorney General charged the 27-year-old Demapan with sexual assault in the first degree, sexual assault in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Bradley is being kept on a \$100,000 cash bail. He has been in detention since his arrest in July 2013.

A police detective stated in her report that two Korean female tourists, including the 27-year-old alleged victim, had been drinking at the Buoy Bar, which is within the resort compound, on July 25, 2013, when a PIC clubmate and his co-worker, Demapan, showed up and joined them at 10:30pm.

At 1am, one of the tourists left the group to use the restroom. When she returned, her companion and the two hotel employees were no longer at the bar. The tourist got worried and immediately sought the help of the hotel's security personnel.

At 2am, July 26, the security guard and a tour agent heard screams and found the alleged victim and Demapan in the bushes north of PIC. The alleged victim was wearing only a bra and was crying. Demapan was allegedly seen pulling up his pants.

The victim told police that Demapan raped her. He denied the charges. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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High surf advisory remains in effect

Due to weather conditions been generated by Tropical Storm Faxai, small craft and high surf advisories will remain in ef-

fect until Wednesday, based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiy-an, Guam.

According to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Faxai remains southeast of the Marianas

and is moving toward the north at 6 mph.

As of 1pm Monday afternoon, the center of Faxai was about 335 miles east-southeast of Rota, and 345

miles southeast of Tinian and Saipan.

Faxai is expected to curve to the north-northeast and accelerate through today, Tuesday. Faxai is forecast to pass east of Guam late last night and Saipan Tuesday morning.

Maximum sustained winds remain at 50 mph. Faxai is expected to intensify slowly during the next 36 hours. Tropical storm force winds extend outward from the center up to 70

miles.

There is no tropical storm watches or warnings in effect for the Marianas

More information is available at NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call CNMI EOC dispatch center at 237-8000 or 211, and for the Northern Islands to contact CNMI EOC dispatch center at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. **(PR)**

FITIAL

From Page 1

just came back from Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings.

This comes a little over a year since Fitial stepped down on Feb. 20, just before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate to determine whether he should be removed from office. The House impeached him on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

The three who voted “no” to adopt the resolution were Reps. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), Felicidad Ogomoro (R-Saipan), and Richard Seman (R-Seman).

Agulto voted in 2013 to impeach Fitial, while Ogomoro and Seman voted against impeaching Fitial in 2012 and 2013.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan) abstained from voting yesterday. In 2012 and 2013,

Camacho voted “no” to most of the articles of impeachment against Fitial.

The three absent members yesterday were Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), and Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan).

Guerrero is in Washington, D.C., while Tebuteb is off-island for a family medical concern. Deleon Guerrero was the main author of the 2012 and 2013 resolutions to impeach Fitial. Tebuteb was a co-sponsor of the impeachment resolutions in 2012 and 2013. Benavente supported the impeachment in 2013 but recently said extradition is a “sensitive matter.”

The 13 other members present yesterday voted “yes” to adopt the resolution in the following order: Reps. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), main author Dela Cruz, Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Antonio

Sablan (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Saipan (Cov-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan).

Santos previously voted against impeaching Fitial but now supports extraditing the former governor. Demapan voted “yes” yesterday “with reservation.”

In yesterday’s floor debate, Ogomoro told her colleagues to focus on “pressing matters” such as restoring the 25-percent cut in retirees’ pension and the higher health insurance premium.

Ogomoro said that lawmakers should have confidence on individuals and agencies tasked and paid to do extradition-related matters.

Dela Cruz, at that point, stepped down as acting speaker

to be able to participate in the debate and assigned Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) to temporarily preside over the session.

Dela Cruz said police and ports police officers are facing criminal charges for things they did upon receiving orders from “somebody” they “feared,” referring to Fitial.

“They are charged in the court of law for something that they did for somebody so the problem we have right now is that somebody is not here... Even the former AG [former attorney general Edward Buckingham] stated it wasn’t his idea for government resources to be used for escorts. He was pointing to somebody but then again that somebody is not here. No one is above the law and we keep on hearing it and we keep repeating it...” Dela Cruz said.

Buckingham was already found guilty of corruption and other charges, many of them the same charges that Fitial faces.

GLOBAL

From Page 1

The target date for completion of COP’s \$4.4-million renovation is in May.

This comes four days after E Land’s Micronesia Resort Inc. announced that the former The Palms Resort in San Roque will reopen under global brand Sheraton or Hilton. They will announce the decision late next week.

Tae Ho Kim, chief operating officer of E Land’s MRI, also announced plans for the construction of at least 200 new hotel rooms that could start in early 2015.

Kim, through MRI senior hotel development manager and Coral Ocean Point operation manager Dennis Seo, who served as the English interpreter, also presented E Land’s planned development of Mediterranean-type villages that include a Tuscan villa community, an Andalusia pool villa, and luxury cliff villa, depending on regulatory approval.

These are all part of what E Land previously announced as a \$40 million, multi-year investment plan for the property.

After the news briefing at Coral Ocean Point yesterday, Kim and Seo were on their way to Japan and Korea to meet with prospective global brand partners for Coral Ocean Point.

Kim asked the CNMI to put its trust in E Land, which he said is a genuine part of the South Korea conglomerate.

“One misunderstanding is that E Land is not real E Land. We are real E Land,” Kim said, adding that they want to focus more on developing the property and show their commitment to help the CNMI tourism economy grow.

Reopened hotel

Coral Ocean Point reopened its doors to hotel guests on Dec. 29, E Land officials said as they gave the media and some visitors a tour yesterday of the different types of renovated rooms, including what they call “ocean view de luxe” and “Tinian ocean executive de luxe.”

The bathrooms were far more luxurious than they were before, and the interiors are now more in keeping with the island vibe mixed with luxury—from bed linens used in 5-star hotels in Korea to fire-resistant curtains for guests’ safety, officials explained.

The group also showed the ongoing renovation of the main building and swimming pool, as well as the especially designed tent-and-steel golf cart storage

area.

First-floor rooms, however, were renovated reusing the former Palms Resort’s carpets that are still in good condition. Officials said this is because many of the guests staying at these rooms are golf players that need carpet floors. The second-floor rooms have tiled floors. Officials said they were mostly from the former Palms Resort’s executive suites.

Kim acknowledged hearing comments from some community members about the reuse of the carpets but he said the carpets are in good condition. He said they plan to replace the reused carpets if hotel guests complain about them. Moreover, they said they are on tight timeline so redoing the whole floors would eat up precious time.

Some television stands in the rooms were also refinished.

Ted Jung, sales and marketing executive for Coral Ocean Point, said the hotel occupancy at Coral Ocean Point’s 80 renovated hotel rooms was 10 percent for three days in December, 50 percent in January, 101 percent in February, and the reservation forecast for March is also 101 percent. Jung and COP human resources manager Bertha Leon Guerrero led the tour of the renovated facilities.

Jung said hotel guests are from Japan, China, Korea, and other markets.

E Land continues its renovation on the 10 executive suites and three other especially designed suites. COP has a total of 193 rooms.

Jung said Pacific Islands Club will also undergo renovations.

E Land is also vying for a public land near its other property in San Antonio, but the Department of Public Lands has yet to decide between E Land’s MRI and Hong Kong-based Honest Profit that were shortlisted in DPL’s request for proposals.

The RFP is for the lease of the San Antonio public land for the development of a new hotel with at least 200 rooms.

They said if they have all three properties within minutes of each other, they could share the facilities among three hotels such as the 18-hole, PGA-qualified golf course at Coral Ocean Point and PIC’s water park.

“We would like to create synergy among the hotels,” Kim added.

Coral Ocean Point’s golf course, golf shop, and restaurant have been in operation all this time. Coral Ocean Point sits on a 735,023-square meter property at Agingan Point in the southern part of Saipan.

KAGMAN

From Page 1

lems. Despite the patch-ups and small portions of asphalt placed on deep potholes, heavy rains have water running off from higher areas to lower parts of Kagman, completely eroding the roads and asphalts within a couple of weeks.

Many of Kagman III’s major streets turn into smaller streets that also need fixing up. The main streets that are in dire need of attention include Chopak Dr, Pine Dr, Forbidden Island Road, Tank Beach Pl, Puteng Dr, and Matbas Dr.

Forbidden Island Road and Tank Beach Pl are mostly unpaved roads that tourists drive through for sightseeing.

More than 30 smaller streets in Kagman III Phases 1-3 are still not paved and the whole Phase 4 is not paved at all.

A Kagman III resident expressed impatience over the continued lack of action to pave the roads.

“The government has to stop with their nonsense and start thinking with their heads together on what they’re going to do about the roads,” he said. “Tourists come to Kagman for the sites, and there is a hotel here in Kagman and sometimes they go to Tank Beach or Forbidden [Island], and I work at LaoLao, sometimes the tourists tell us why the road is no good.”

‘Not our responsibility’

Saipan Tribune tried to finds an-

swers from the Saipan Mayor’s Office, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Works, to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation’s Precinct 5 representatives to figure out why Kagman roads are such in a state of neglect.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores’ adviser, Henry Hofschneider, told *Saipan Tribune*, that it is not the mayor’s office’s responsibility to pave roads “because we don’t have funding for that.”

He also said the job of the mayor is only to improve and do maintenance on all secondary roads and “not pave” them.

“We only can flatten and place corals on the roads, no paving, because it’s the law that makes the mayor handle these situations,” Hofschneider said.

They also handle roads that lead to tourist and farms.

“If the Legislature were to appropriate enough money, we can do something about those roads. We would get our equipment and start helping. Not only that, our equipment is in need of attention because they’re old and we need new equipment,” Hofschneider said.

He pointed out that Shimizu Corp. of Japan paved the roads from Isa Drive, while other investors paid for the paving of the Kagman road to all of Kagman I, Kagman II and a part of Kagman III subdivisions.

Which led to a question raised by one Kagman resident: “Why can investors contribute to the Kagman community in paving roads but our government cannot do anything? It’s embar-

assing that investors come and do something for the people when our own senatorial district doesn’t do anything here.”

Costly

Acting Department of Public Works secretary Ben Cabrera said that paving roads is directly related to the availability of funds.

“It costs \$1 million for a one-mile road. It’s just very costly,” he said.

Cabrera said that about \$600,00 that has been identified for this purpose requires the Legislature to first appropriate that amount.

But even then, that’s still not enough, Cabrera said. “It’ll take more than double that to be enough to pave all the roads in Kagman III,” he said.

He said that Kagman is “nothing more than rocks” and that’s a big issue that falls under the purview of the Legislature.

He pointed out that DPW is there to implement projects, “not appropriate money, that’s the lawmakers’ job.”

“If the Legislature were to give funding, we would already be on our way, surveying” he added.

Cabrera expressed sympathy with Kagman residents and urged them to “be patient, we’re working diligently to find money.”

‘\$600K identified’

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said that \$600,000 has been identified but it will take time to appropriate it.

and Ogomoro were Reps. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), Richard Seman (R-Saipan), and Ma-

rio Taitano (Ind-Saipan).

The six “no” votes were from Reps. George Camacho (R-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and acting speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan).

CASINO

From Page 1

House Bill 18-179, House Draft 4, will be dead on arrival at the Senate or whether it will be referred to committee or acted on immediately.

The Senate will hold a ses-

sion at 2pm today.

The House passed the casino bill by a vote of 11-6 with three absences. The bill’s main author is House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), with Rep. Felicidad Ogomoro (R-Saipan) as co-sponsor.

The 11 who voted “yes” to the gambling bill besides Demapan

IT&E donates \$10K for Typhoon Haiyan rehabilitation efforts

IT&E CNMI announced yesterday that their Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) fundraising efforts brought in \$10,000. The combined grand total raised by both IT&E Guam and Saipan companywide amounted to \$20,000.

A check for \$10,000 was presented to John Hirsch, executive director for the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross, during a ceremony at the IT&E Chalan Lau Lau offices.

All proceeds raised by IT&E will be distributed by the American Red Cross to their general relief fund established to assist the victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

IT&E partnered with Magic 100 KAW-FM during an all-day fundraising event held at the Marianas Business Center. IT&E also conducted a telethon through the efforts of their Customer Care Calling Center. With the bulk of the donations coming from individuals wanting to assist and help out, IT&E went further and matched those donations from the company.

"IT&E's donation comes at a pinnacle time as there is still much repair work to do and needed support for the people affected in the typhoon region," said Hirsch. "The devastation was massive. Some villages are just now getting back to normal services like water and power. IT&E's donation will be well appreciated as the relief effort will continue for some time."

Rose Soledad, managing director for the CNMI, stated that "the donations made by the CNMI residents show the great

IT&E staff presents the company's Typhoon Yolanda Relief Fund check to John Hirsch, executive director of ARC. From left to right: Rob Harrell, executive director for Customer Operations; Veronica Acosta, marketing product manager; John Hirsch, ARC; Velma Palacios, head of Network Services; and Hans Mickelson, business sales & marketing manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

generosity the people of the CNMI has for their neighbors in the region. We are so grateful and appreciative of the many individuals who donated to the relief fund in spite of the still flat economy."

Rob Harrell, executive director for Customer Operations, said: "We extend our continued thoughts and prayers to the many folks affected by the typhoon. IT&E is pleased to have the opportunity to assist. Relief efforts will be ongoing for many more months and it's our hope that our donation will speed up that process so people can rebuild and get back to their normal lives. We'd also like to thank all of the IT&E staff who volunteered their time to the donation drive and telethon efforts."

The American Red Cross has raised over \$80 million to assist the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Staff from the American Red Cross will probably remain in the Philippines for the next five years working with their partners on further long-term recovery projects. *(IT&E)*



PICKS OF THE WEEK ²

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NOTICE OF MEETING NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS' SPECIAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Time: 8:00a.m
Place: HR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order (8:00a.m - 8:10a.m)
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- II. New Business (8:10a.m - 8:30a.m)
 - a. NMC FY2015 Appropriations Budget
- III. Executive Session (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- IV. Adjournment (8:30a.m)

/s/ Frank M. Rabauliman
BOR Chairperson

Date: March 03, 2014



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ADDENDUM NO. 1 2/28/14 ITB14-GOV-065

Roof Repair & Coating of the Ada Gymnasium & Guma Hustitia – Judicial Complex

The previously advertised, Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) for the “Roof Repair & Coating of the Ada Gymnasium & Guma Hustitia – Judicial Complex” has been amended. The specific amendment is to include a pre-bid meeting and change of dates. The ITB shall read as follows:

There will be Pre-bid Conference/Site Visits for this project on March 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Judicial Complex and 1:30 p.m. at the Ada Gymnasium. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 14, 2014 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked “ITB14-GOV-065”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, March 25, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time March 25, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 25, 2014** and must be received no later than April 2, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **1:00 p.m. Saipan local time, April 2, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **1:30 p.m. Saipan local time, on March 25, 2014**.

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Nerissa Benavente, Project Coordinator at (670) 664-2374 or by fax at (670)664-2408.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Flores wants 62-pct. hike in his budget

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Municipality of Saipan currently runs at a “cost-cutting budget” of just \$1.345 million. Now it wants a higher budget of \$2.478 million for the new fiscal year—about 62 percent more—most of which will go to operational costs.

According to Teri Camacho, Saipan Mayor’s Office fiscal and budget officer, the budget they have right now is not enough because they “exceeded the proposed budget” due to equipment rentals.

For fiscal year 2015, the mayor’s office proposes a budget of \$2.478 million, of which \$978,202 will be used to pay its 39 personnel, while \$1.5 million will be for other costs such as utilities, supplies, fuels, rentals, repair, travel, and equipment purchases.

Fiscal year 2015 is from Oct. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2015.

According to Camacho, the increase in the fiscal 2015 budget is because the mayor’s office needs to buy heavy equipment worth \$500,000.

Mayor Donald G. Flores noted that the budget is “based on actual demands and expectations my office received from the community.”

Flores pointed out that they saved on utility cost by designating a utility conservation officer-in-charge who makes sure all office appliances are shut down after office hours.

The mayor’s office also wants to hire an engineer and lawyer.

Heavy/light equipment needed

According to Flores, “it is just high time and truly long overdue to replace my office’s heavy equipment with new ones.”

In his proposed budget, the

mayor’s office detailed its inventory of heavy equipment and other vehicles, 12 of which are out of commission. Two are working—the payload and the grader—but are over three decades old and are in constant need of repair.

Flores noted that the equipment that are less than 30 years old are not in good condition and are not an asset to the office.

“In all honesty, the equipment have become so much of a liability that it is a shame to continue expending public funds to constantly repair them,” Flores stated. “They are not safe to drive on the highways.”

He said the Department of Public Safety had given his crewmembers verbal warnings to stop driving the office’s trucks on highways. If not, DPS would impound the vehicles.

Dog control program

The Saipan Mayor’s Office’s Dog Control Program has been struggling because it is almost impossible to keep up with the growing population of stray dogs. Part of the challenge is the sheer number of dogs.

They also lack equipment to trap and catch dogs and money to pay for veterinary services to spay or neuter dogs before adoption.

“In my budget proposal, I inserted the acquisition of two light pickup trucks and fabrication of a 10-compartment dog trailer,” Flores said.

He said the program’s vehicles are not in good condition and repairing them would be unwise because “they will break down with another problem sooner than they are fixed. This is money down the drain.”

Rental of heavy equipment

Flores also cited his office’s

high rental cost for equipment.

“With no dump trucks, backhoes, a payload, or even an excavator, my office must rent in order to comply with its mandate,” he said.

The law requires the mayor’s office to repair, improve, and maintain secondary roads and other roads on Saipan. Without an excavator, which is used to extract coral from the quarry to be used for road repairs and maintenance, work cannot be fully done.

“Whether my office likes it or not, I have no discretion to not perform the mandates, as the CNMI Legislature made it a requirement,” Flores said.

Without the financial means and no operational equipment, work will “just have to be put on hold. ...Doing this is not performing my statutory mandates and not protecting the lives of the public who use the roadways, which includes public safety personnel who have to respond to emergencies,” he said.

“It should not surprise anyone that my office has been plagued with problems time and again since I took office, and I believe it is time to deliver better and quicker services to the public by giving my office an adequate budget to acquire new heavy equipment,” he added.

Manta Ray Band fundraiser concert tonight

Two musical groups are ready to create beautiful music tonight while looking to raise some funds for an upcoming music competition.

The Saipan Southern High School’s Manta Ray Band and The Pacific Winds community concert band will team up to present a wind ensemble performance at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe tonight, March 4.

Manta Ray Band musical director William DeWitt said that proceeds from the event will fund the Manta Ray Band’s quest to return to Guam this week for the 10th Annual Tumon Bay Music Festival. The festival is set for March 5-16.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission and will be available at the door, or can be pre-purchased from any band member. The Manta Ray Band will be conducted by DeWitt while The Pacific Winds will be co-conducted by Christina A. Nierras.

DeWitt said tonight’s performances will include music from Duke Ellington, John Philip Sousa, the anime film *My Neighbor Totoro*, Barry Manilow, and much more. Numerous small ensembles from both bands will also perform.

The Manta Ray Band gave a dazzling performance at the 9th Annual Tumon Bay Music Festival where it earned 17 gold medals. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ADDENDUM NO. 1 2/28/14 ITB14-GOV-066

Repainting of Government Buildings in Capitol Hill

The previously advertised, Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) for the “Repainting of Government Buildings in Capitol Hill” has been amended. The specific amendment is to include a pre-bid meeting and change of dates. The ITB shall read as follows:

There will be Pre-bid Conference/Site Visits for this project on March 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Governor’s Conference Room. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 14, 2014 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked “ITB14-GOV-066”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, March 25, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **11:00 a.m. Saipan local time March 25, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 25, 2014** and must be received no later than **April 2, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m. Saipan local time, April 2, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **2:30 p.m. Saipan local time, on March 25, 2014**.

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Nerissa Benavente, Project Coordinator at (670) 664-2374 or by fax at (670)664-2408.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP: RFP14-CHCC-048

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 26, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“REVENUE CYCLE MANAGEMENT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”

Copies of the RFP packet may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Any questions regarding this RFP may be sent to Ms. Esther L. Muna, CHCC CEO at esther.muna@dph.gov.mp no later than close of business, March 14, 2014. Responses to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CEO - Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



INVITATION FOR BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-CHCC-070

Submission/Opening Date: March 27, 2014 Time: 11:00 a.m.

“PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A SERVER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION - EARLY DETECTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM”

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CEO - Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S



The Mercedarian Sisters arrive on Saipan by boat on March 4, 1928, landing at the *Pantalan Aleman* across the site where the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan now sits. The Sisters are Loreto Subia, Inocencia Urizar, Pilar Lorenzo, Maria Teresa Cortazar and Aurora Chopitea



The Sisters are joined by Fr. Dionisio de la Fuente and are surrounded by children and people.



The Sisters have their picture taken with young women and girls who would soon become their students.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Mercedarian Sisters mark 86 years on Saipan

By **SR. MARYANN HARTMANN, MMB**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, an international community of religious women, will celebrate today, March 4, the 86th anniversary of their arrival on Saipan.

Eighty-six years ago, five Sisters—Sisters Loreto Zubia, Inocencia Urizar, Pilar Lorenzo, Maria Teresa Cortazar and Aurora Chopitea—arrived on Saipan on March 4, 1928, after traveling for more than three months, having left their motherhouse of Berriz in the north of Spain on Oct. 30, 1927.

They arrived on Saipan by boat, and landed at the *Pantalan Aleman*, right across the place where the Kristo Rai Church now sits in Garapan.

The first thing that they did was kneel down and kiss the ground, thanking God for having called them to this mission in such a far away country. With all the women on one side and all the men on the other singing *Atan Jesukristo* and *Asaina Jesus*, the Sisters proceeded with Jesuit Frs. Dionisio de la Fuente and Luis Carlos Faber to the church.

The early days of the Sisters on Saipan required plenty of adjustments, but despite not knowing any of the local languages, they tried to respond to the persistent requests of the young women that they open a school. Only 15 days after their arrival, on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, they did so.

Twelve Chamorro girls and 12 Carolinian girls had their in-

struction in classes, which were held from 9am to 12pm Monday through Saturday. Japanese girls also came in the afternoons from 3pm to 4pm.

This was the humble beginning that the Mercedarian Sisters had on the island, eventually also in other apostolic works such as teaching *doktrina*, and

offering classes in piano, Spanish, drawing, flower arrangement, and later home economics-cooking and sewing. Many years and experiences ensued, not the least of which was the experience of World War II.

In 1951, Our Lady of Mercy Kindergarten, now called Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Devel-

opment Center, was opened. In 1952, Mt. Carmel School would be established and later, in 1979, the Maturana House of Prayer.

The names, the faces, the places of origin, and even the style of dress of the different Sisters throughout the years have changed, but the love, care, concern, and dedication continue.


**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**


INVITATION FOR BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-BECQ-067
 Submission/Opening Date: March 27, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) VESSEL AND OUTBOARD ENGINE
FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ FRANK M. RABULIMAN
Administrator of BECQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S


**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**


INVITATION FOR BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-BECQ-069
 Submission/Opening Date: March 27, 2014 Time: 1:00 p.m.

**"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FIFTEEN COMPUTER SYSTEMS
FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ FRANK M. RABULIMAN
Administrator of BECQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

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Humanities Council to host student film festival

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting its first ever Student Film Festival this Saturday, March 8, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater in Garapan starting at 6pm.

The event is free and the council has great prizes up for grabs. The winners of each category—film and photomontage—will be announced after the film screenings.

High school students from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were invited to submit a digital film or digital photomontage that reflects the theme: “What does the American dream mean in the CNMI?”

Under the film category, the entries are:

■ *The American Dream* from All Stars Productions of Marianas High School;

■ *Saimerican Dream* by

Miguel Dandan of MD Productions from Mount Carmel School; and

■ *The American Dream in the CNMI* from Kagman High School.

Under the photomontage category, the entries are:

■ *The American Dream in the CNMI* by Emman Parian of Grace Christian Academy; and

■ *My Dream* by Enoch Huang of Agape Christian School.

A 2010 We The People grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities made the film festival possible.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the films or photomontages are those of the creator and do not necessarily represent those of the National

Endowment for the Humanities or the Northern Marianas

JKPL eyes improved services for community

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library is gearing up to enhance, improve, and expand its services to the community.

Rosalyn Ajoste, JKPL’s technical services librarian, said that their efforts will focus on circulation, collection development, advocacy efforts, and cataloguing.

A new “Pacific Collection” archives will be opened possibly in six months to a year after they are done cataloguing. The archives will have over 25,000 local documents, both historical and current, as well as the Nancy Weil Collection of archives.

Ajoste is also asking for volunteers who speak Korean, Japanese, and Chinese to help them with the translation of book titles, authors, publications, summaries, and subject analysis of Korean, Chinese, and Japanese books.

The Information Technology Center has added four new computers to the 16 that are already available

Ajoste said that an Online Public Access Catalog would soon be available for all of JKPL’s books in the CNMI and worldwide.

Reference books such as almanacs will be updated each year.

Other improvements being eyed are possibly a weekly Saturday book sale and garage sale in the parking lot and vendors and outdoor book reading for customers at the library’s front. The back side of the library is now undergoing an expansion.

“People don’t realize the importance of a library until there is no library, which is why we’re reaching out to the community.” Ajoste said.

Humanities Council.

For more information, call Council office at (670) 235-4785. (*Jayson Camacho*)

Highlights

JKPL programs highlight the library’s growing involvement with the community.

That includes Saturday programs, such as the Children’s Read Aloud at 10:30am, family movie days at 1pm, and the Bookmobile that goes to certain villages or centers from 11:30am to 2:30pm.

There are ukulele classes on Tuesdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm and Thursdays from 4:45pm to 5:45pm, which is taught by Larry Lee.

Bookmobile Routes focus on schools, during which JKPL goes to five schools to encourage reading among schoolchildren.

AV² Books are one of the featured highlights of the Children Center at JKPL, where a young reader logs in with the book’s code and finds related activities and reading materials that they will enjoy for their age.

The library also makes book donations to the adult prison and Juvenile Detention Center in Kagman, Guma Esparanza, youth centers in Tanapag, Kolblerville, and Gualo Rai, and the Salvation Army.

Ajoste noted that JKPL would partner with the Division of Public Health and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for a showdown on April 13-19, 2014, at the Garapan Roundhouse, followed by the Kick-Butts Rally.

Another event this April is Library Month, which will kick off in late March.

“Google can bring you back one million answers, but a librarian can bring you the correct one,” Ajoste said. (*Jayson Camacho*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

March 4, 2006

Fitial meets with hotel chain execs

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial flew to Japan yesterday to meet with management of an international luxury hotel chain that has expressed interest in establishing a hotel in the Northern Marianas. Fitial is reportedly meeting with officials of Okura Hotels and Resorts, which operates 23 hotels worldwide. Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said the governor would have news regarding the potential investment upon his return on Monday, March 6, 2006. He expressed hope that the governor’s meeting with Okura Hotels and Resorts would yield a similar positive result.

Governor avows policy on nondiscriminatory hirings

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reaffirmed the CNMI government’s policy on equal employment opportunity and directed all government agencies to establish and implement individual EEO rules. Fitial said that the government would not tolerate discrimination in the hiring process or in the treatment of its employees. He added that the government would vigorously enforce a policy of non-tolerance for sexual harassment in the workplace and among the government workforce. “It is my firm belief and the policy of this administration that those residents of the Commonwealth who are legally entitled to work for the Commonwealth government will be considered equally and indiscriminately, in accordance with relevant statutes, for employment and advancement in the government services. Similarly, every employee of the government possesses the right to a workplace free from threat, harassment, or coercion,” he said in Directive 250.

March 4, 2007

DPH renews warning on peanut butter products

The Department of Public Health has warned the public anew on Peter Pan peanut butter after the U.S. Food and Drugs Administration expanded its recall of the brand following a discovery that three other products have the peanut butter ingredients. In a new media advisory released Friday evening, DPH said it was found that Peter Pan peanut butter was used in various ice cream, sundae, and shake toppings. The recalled brand included Sonic Brand Ready-To-Use Peanut Butter Topping available in 6 lb. 10.5 oz cans. DPH said the topping was used in the following Sonic products: Peanut Butter Shake, Peanut Butter Fudge Shake, Peanut Butter Sundae, and Peanut Butter Fudge Sundae.

CNMI Zoning board village meetings on land use plan set

The Commonwealth Zoning Board wants the public’s input on a project to update Saipan’s zoning law and comprehensive land use plan. The board has announced a series of village meetings to gather comments on the plan. Eleven informal village meetings will be held throughout the month, from March 6 to 29, 2007. “The Commonwealth Zoning Board wants to know what you like about your village and what you would like to see changed in the future. Come to a meeting for your village,” the board urged Saipan residents.

March 4, 2008

CDA may run Gardenia itself

If there are no qualified bids for the Pacific Gardenia Hotel come March 12, the Commonwealth Development Authority just might open up the hotel and run the business itself. According to acting CDA executive director Oscar Camacho, since the request for proposals for Pacific Gardenia was put out, there have been a number of phone calls and visits showing interest in the property but “we’ve not had any solid or concrete proposals just yet.” The deadline for the acceptance of bids for the beachfront property is on March 12. “I’m not sure if they’re waiting for the last day to submit their offers or what, but next week is the deadline,” said Camacho.

Budget proposal cuts unfilled posts by half

The budget bill now under House consideration calls for a 50-percent reduction of vacant full-time positions in government. The bill, introduced by Rep. Ray Yumul and cosponsored by nine other lawmakers on Friday, requires that currently vacant full-time employee positions be left unfilled and reduced by one half. This means that the government will have authority during fiscal year 2008 to fill half of the existing job vacancies in the government. Each hiring requires approval of the Legislature by joint resolution.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Accountant

Associate’s Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in a financing or commercial/credit loan business. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO and Loan Management Information Systems, MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Finance Company, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 17, 2014.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

General Maintenance Worker

High school diploma or equivalent with experience in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Housekeeper (2)

High school diploma or GED Certificate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Messenger

High school graduate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 17, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



TAKAGI & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Is seeking qualified individuals for
INSURANCE CLERK
(Full Time)

- MINIMUM of 2 years business experience (insurance background an advantage)
- EXCELLENT customer service skills
- STRONG written & oral communications
- DEMONSTRATE proficiency in Word, Excel & office machines
- ABILITY to multi-task and accept additional responsibilities
- CNMI and/or US CITIZENS may apply

PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON
We are located at Bank of Hawaii Building,
Marina Heights I,
Puerto Rico, Saipan
NO Phone calls PLEASE

Closing date: Friday, March 21, 2014

Non-profit group submits tourism development initiative

The Marianas Economic Research and Development Foundation is a non-profit organization that was recently formed by a group of concerned citizens to encourage economic development through increased investment and workforce enhancement that will create long-term prosperity and improve the quality of life for the residents for many years in the future.

The Foundation has researched multiple areas of economic development and has determined that the most viable and fastest economic contribution to the community would be from tourism, based on the

growing Chinese tourist market.

Information from numerous research institutes, universities, and government studies indicate that the Chinese outbound tourist numbers will reach between 200 million to 400 million annually by 2020. In 2013 the outbound tourist rate from China was the highest in all of history for any one nation at 97.3 million outbound travelers who spent an estimated \$118 billion worldwide, as reported by the Chinese Tourism Academy. So the question is, what will draw this viable and valuable market to our community?

What the Foundation is proposing is to emulate what Singapore has recently done that attracted significant investments to build what is referred to as integrated resorts. This would include hotel accommodations, convention centers, and casino operations, along with other numerous tourist attractions and amenities with a minimum investment of \$500 million. In 2010 two operations opened their doors in Singapore and last year they brought in \$5.85 billion in gross revenues to the community and created an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 jobs.

"While we certainly do not

expect to match this, it could still equate into the largest economic boom the CNMI has ever experienced and significantly improve the lives of many of our residents," the Foundation said in a statement yesterday.

The Foundation's goal is to ensure that the voice of the people is heard, which it would then use to guide it in all its efforts. The initiative includes a provision for dedicated funding. These funds will be earmarked for projects that will benefit the entire community.

"We recognize that this en-

deavor may have negative social impacts such as problem gambling. The CNMI already has legalized gambling and this is quite obviously an issue within our community today," the statement says.

The Foundation's members strongly believe that this issue should be addressed through dedicated funds to help residents that are enduring these troubles and are in need of assistance. The Foundation also recognizes that there are other issues that could be addressed by the dedicated funds. The

Foundation will present a list of these issues to the public for their consideration and input.

"The final disposition of the dedicated funds will be determined by the voice and vote of the people so we will need their help," the statement adds.

"No member of the Foundation is looking to be directly involved, in any way, with these casino operations for positions or profits. This is simply for all the residents."

"Please contact us with any thoughts or concerns you may have at info@merdf.org." (PR)

Pension restored for military vets under 62

HAGATNA, Guam—President Barack Obama recently signed a measure into law allowing a restoration of pension payments for younger military retirees. The cuts to pension payments for younger military retirees began less than two months ago and were projected to have saved the government \$7 billion over a decade.

"This is great news for all veterans," said Guam Sen. Frank B. Aguon Jr. "Veterans across the nation joined together and campaigned to fight for the restoration of these pension payments. It is clear that all veterans have a strong will to fight for rights they duly deserve. This great news energizes me even more to continue my efforts to further

improve the quality of life for Guam's veterans."

According to the Pentagon, there are nearly 2 million retirees eligible for this pension, with 840,000 of them under the age of 62. The new law stipulates that the pensions will go to veterans who retire after 20 years of service regardless of their age. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday greetings go out today to Jryden Jahzny A. Fejeran! Nothing brings us more happiness than the smile on your face. We want to see that smile on your lips forever. Happy 7th birthday, little diva. We love you! From Mom, Dad, Jacoby, and Jayvehn.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Daddy Jesse Deleon Guerrero! God bless you with many more birthdays to come. Lot's of love from Mommy, Ana, Jesse Boy, and JoDanny Boy!

Family grief support meeting on March 6

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter in Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, March 6, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.



We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after

a child has died.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 989-9821 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To

learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation


JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-003 Opening Date: Friday, February 28, 2014
Closing Date: Friday, March 14, 2014

**Accounting Assistant
(Tinian)**

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Accounting Specialist or his/her designee. Performs a wide variety of routine fiscal support activities to include: receiving and processing payments; issuing receipts; preparing daily deposit slips; opening new accounts; closing credit cards; verifying and processing payroll; running automatic credit card payments; posting invoices; preparing checks; preparing refunds; and, preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports. Maintains filing systems. Performs customer service activities to include assisting customers with applications, payments and in settling disputes. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S): Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: \$12,584.00 per annum - \$14,000.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.
POSITION(S): Two (2).

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School (AS) diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. Knowledge of: Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Cash handling and bank deposit procedures. Skill in: Providing customer service; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisors, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Karidat invites public to 'spring cleaning'

Karidat Social Services is doing spring cleaning for an "office makeover" in order to expand its food pantry and family services offices.

It is inviting the community to come to the Karidat main office in

Chalan Kanoa (next to the cemetery), on March 8, 2014, from 9am to 3pm to take what you may need for your family. Please bring your own plastic bags or boxes to take home the items you select.

"Karidat wishes to thank the

community members who have donated to us over the years, we appreciate your ongoing support to those less fortunate in our community."

For more information, call 234-6981. (Karidat)



Kanoa Resort

Saipan

(1) OPERATIONS MANAGER

Qualifications: Associate's Degree or a minimum of two years experience preferably in Tourism, Hotel & Restaurant or Business Management. Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays. Must possess strong leadership and communication skills. Organized, motivated, analytical and creative, as well as comfortable in directing others. Must be proficient in various computer software applications and has a proven track record of meeting budgets, an understanding of P&L statements and cost/inventory control.

(1) MANAGER, SPORTS AND RECREATION

Qualifications: Associates degree in an appropriate field or equivalent years of relevant experience. At least 3 years experience in sports and recreation, at managerial capacity, in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Team player, excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must. Must be able to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays.

(4) GUEST SERVICES AGENT

Qualifications: High School diploma or GED certificate. Minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. Have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers. Must be able to work flexible hours including nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) GARDENER / LANDSCAPER

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Two years previous work experience. Basic knowledge of Horticulture. Must be able to work outdoors exposed to all weather conditions. Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few days to a few months of training.

(1) ELECTRICIAN

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Able to service, repair, calibrate, regulate, fine-tune or test machines, devices and equipment that operate primarily on electrical or electronic principles. Must be able to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required.

(1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC / TECHNICIAN

Qualifications: Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience.

(4) FOOD AND BEVERAGE WAIT STAFF

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. At least 6 months serving experience preferably in hotel operations. Good customer service, communications and interpersonal skills are required. Knowledge of cash, check and credit card handling procedures required.

(4) LIFEGUARD

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to swim and have an outgoing personality and the ability to motivate with enthusiasm. Proposed ideas or find ways to improve services, systems and/or procedures. Direct and lead activities for guests of all ages. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard.

(1) EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications: Associate's Degree preferred. At least two years of relevant experience. Provide high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing statistical reports, handling information requests, preparing financial statements, and performing clerical functions such as preparing correspondence, receiving visitors, arranging conference calls, and scheduling meetings. May also train and supervise lower-level clerical staff.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 6, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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A mixed bag of food labels

The U.S. Food and Drug administration broke new ground in consumer protection when it required, more than 20 years ago, the now-familiar nutrition labels on virtually every bit of packaged food. Now, the labels are being revamped—in ways that have both benefits and downsides.

One of the most noticeable changes—and the least justifiable—would be the addition of a new sub-category: the number of grams of added sugar in the food, in addition to the existing measure of total sugar.

But why make such a change? Doctors and dietitians have declared that there is no nutritional difference between naturally occurring sugars such as fructose (in fruit juice) and the sugars that are added. All are processed the same way by the body; the only difference, some scientists have found, is when the sugar occurs in a whole, unprocessed food such as an apple.

The same isn't true, though, of the sugar in soda or that in apple juice, though the proposed labels would imply otherwise. If people want to avoid added sugar, they just need to look at the ingredients list.

The FDA proposal is on firmer footing when it suggests listing the number of calories, the number of servings in a container and the size of each serving in more prominent type. The number of calories is the number most consumers want to check, so it should be easy to locate and read. Similarly, some shoppers think that the number of calories listed is the total for the package rather than for the serving size; they don't notice that even a relatively small bag of chips might contain two or three servings, although that information is included on the label. A consumer who is not looking closely might think he is eating a 100-calorie snack when he is actually consuming more like 300 calories.

For the same reason, the FDA wants packages of food that might be consumed by one person at a sitting to be relabeled as a single serving, with the total calorie count. In other words, a 20-ounce bottle of soda, which most people probably drink at a sitting, could no longer be counted as 2 1/2 servings.

The goal is a good one: to keep consumers from being misled. But the proposed change on these smaller packages would mean that there are no real standards of what constitutes a serving. A 12-ounce can of Coke would be designated a single serving, as would a 20-ounce bottle of Coke—which is at least as confusing as the current system. Also, one of the chief obstacles in whittling the nation's waistline is the great American food portion. Once labels say that 20 ounces of soda is a single serving, consumers might start thinking of that as a standard, reasonable size. They shouldn't.

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The 40-day fast

Today begins a 40-day fast. Since I am back on Saipan, I shall use the metaphor of a majority of island residents. Forty is a whole number to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It is a number of completion, one generation in biblical reckoning. Forty years in the wilderness, and 40 days in the desert are examples.

The fast points to the other side of feast in life's reality. As we celebrate birthdays annually, some folks stop counting at 39. That's because the ascent ceases and the descent begins, in the pyramidal language of social stratification that fits nicely our hierarchical sense of nature.

This is different in other cultures where being creative means standing at the cutting edge of movemental reality. Creation, change, innovation are the language of our island context shared with us by Spain, Germany, Japan, and the United States. I include Japan in there because the militaristic Japan that attempted a co-prosperity scheme when they occupied the Marianas was patterned after England by the Meiji restoration, thereby hierarchical with Nippon on top.

An older ethos from China has this saying: Life is a circle so what's the hurry. It is standing in the middle that is the goal of life, not at the edge. Stillness lingering like a downcast hovering over a terrain is more valued than the speed of moving forward. Fast is the standing still in space as the winds of change roams over the landscape of time. Accomplishment is not achieving the impossible; it is attaining the tranquil and serene quietude. The Great Wall kept the invaders at bay, and when they did march through the breach, they did not conquer but were assimilated like the Mongols and the Manchus. And when Zhang He the adventurous admiral spread its armada's sails all the way to the shores of Africa, the Ming emperor turned on the elegy of the river and went the opposite direction of cleaning the house and the inner yard so that peace may abide.

While both the feast and the fast are nothing but different sides of the same reality, the mind often requires reminders like rites and rituals to embrace its limits and not just its possibilities. That's why I fast.

Admittedly, the practice also addresses the two extra inches of belt space in our current girth that was not there when we started slurping the *chow mein* (noodles) and wolfing the *jiao zi* (dumplings) in our current residence in Dong Bei. But it is exactly bumping into the limits that we live on the reality of what is given.

We keep harping that ours is a journey that may have parts, phases, and counted years, but is essentially one, in our case, 86 years. In the scheme of things, from before my time and after, I am a minuscule part of reality. I am nothing. But within the 86 years, with all its intrigues and surprises, its speed bumps and the

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



foot on the pedal, with every morsel of its awake hours subject to the molding of choice, I am somebody. What applies to me also applies to everyone.

We are the feast and the fast of our existence.

In the Christian story, excusing for the moment its historical bigotries and addiction to the archaic, fast is observed for 40 days until a glorious moment when death in its stillness is transformed into a glorious resurrection. Let me put a little twist on the traditional story. The Jesus whose story is paradigmatic of the Christian rite, gleaned from my theological clarity of the barefoot Jesus of Nazareth, simply means that we had been saved from our sinful dependence on a busybody G-O-D. "Are you waiting for a Messiah," is the cry from the cross. The answer in the early morn of the empty tomb was, "You need not wait any longer." We can pick up our lives and head for the Galilee of our vocation! We fast so that we understand the gift of the feast.

Heresy, heresy, the guardians of the cathedral gates and the holy book will say. Not so. Read your Church history again. Read your Bible again and listen to the reality it is pointing to, not the belief and dogmas we inherited from those who used their metaphors in their time. The infallibility of the mother church and the papal office is conferred, built on the trust that the truth is being told in a manner that illumines our life realities. When it no longer did in the nascent selfhood of Germany, a Luther was born. He posted his thesis on a cathedral door to invite the princes of the realm to repent and fast from their illusions.

Fast is not about abstaining from meat but in knowing that life allows one to easily drown in the gentle current at Micro Beach. Fast is not about keeping the male and female separate during the day, and quietly modest at night. Rather, it is knowing that the genetics of union might carry incomplete chromosomes and incompatible genes, that the generous portion on our plates may also contain added artificial chemicals to prolong shelf life for commerce. It is feeling in our bones the emptiness of achieved knowledge and attained certitude. Reality defies easy categorization of the mind.

Come down to the pala-pala today. We can fast together!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kachido` Lahen Yuus

Aksidente, hulie` kachido` “Lahen Yuus” ni malagnos gi alacha. Ayu na kachido` muna` oppan haf` finapos i Sainata deste mamapotge` ñaihon nanaña as Santa Maria estake ha tutuhon chumogue tinagu` Yuus Tata gi idat dose años.

I bañgheliun San Juan` nai anog na tautau magahet i lahen Yuus ni umapagaye, sin ditension, na i satbasion i tautau gaige giya guiya taimanu disposision Yuus Tata. I dies na tinagu` Yuus mapega papa` deste tienpon Moises (Moses). I mensahe mapega gi dos pahinan tablon achu` ya managu` si Yuus Tata na umatatiye. Mattu dispues i lahiña Jesukristu ya ha kontinua chumalapon tinagu` tataña.

Espesiat i bañgheliun ni tinige` San Juan sa` ayu finenina` nai anog na tautau i lahen Yuus gi usun ayu na palabra i “guahu” (I am). Megai na man-malate`, menhalom yan famosu na relihiosu nina` fan matman ni fino` Jesukristu` nai sige ha pula` i tinagu` Yuus Tata gi sinagogiu siha. Mampos tagfe` na ke todú i hagas man-mapega kumu respetau na atori-dat pot haf` dinanche yan tunas na disposision para i linahyan.

Dos patte gi ha`anen Jesukristu mampos ha gana sensiaghu: 1). Mapunu` sin umisau. 2). I minesñgon mañainaña gi ora` nai makas-titiga antes de umapunu` gi kiluus yan sustansian siete na finihu` para si Yuus Tata yan nanaña as Santa Maria.

Mampos menhalom yan tomtum si Jesukristu na malie` ni manma`gas Judius yan otu siha nasion na siempre man-inamot disposision fuetsan niha. Poresu, mapunu` sin umisau pot no u fan estotba mas gi halom i fuma` rarai siha. Ti si Ponsiu Pilatu kumondena na i tautau ni man-estaba gi kotten Jesukristu. Makat para unna` mapunu` i inosiente lau hombre este hasuñgun i Sainata pot satbasion kinilu siha gi pastahen enteru elmundu. Mañasaunau hit guine na sakrifisioña!

Ai na manadan lagu` ha chuda` si Santa Maria` nai sige makas-tiga i lahiña. Ni unu siña ha falague pot ayudu fuera ke kanai asaguaña as San Jose. Dispues, tanu` enemigu` nai estaba. Mampos puti i irida siha gi tatautauña na esta mamaisen hulu` haf` na taigui-he madisponiña as Yuus Tata. Ha suñgun todú ya hagagauye asi` i i trumaidutegue sa` timatuñgu haf` bidan niniha.

Gi halom siete na finihu`, ha adiñgane lokue` papa` i tai nina` siña as nanaña Santa Maria. Ayu na finoña` nai anog pinitina` as nanaña ni tumatiyegue` gi halom mattirun kastigu estake mapunugue` gi kilu`us. Estaba ha` ta`lu si Santa Maria man-rikonose guihe na liya-ñg achu`` nai mahafot i lahiña ni kahulu` gi lañget gi mina` tres dias.

Yangin un` dia u fattu este na kachido` mage, keni` familia ya infan hamyu man-ega` sa sumen mauleg piot para i famaguonta siha. Si Yuus u bendise hit todus!

Magotden Babue

Para todú i difirientes na hatsada yan ma-utut sueddon man-ritirau, haf` na magodden balaku monedan familia` nai ti siña kalamten. I fuetsan moneda mas didog maribahaña. Sige pa`gu man-ensinahy-au matriakan yan patriatkan familia taimanu para una` fan afagcha` mantension familia.

Huñgan, talie` mattirun hinanau i administrasion i Navy guine gi 1961. Megai gi mangai che`chu` guihe na tiempu mana` fan basta. Ensegidas mafalague i hagas gualu` ya sige man-mananum. Pa`gu na biahe mauleg na guaha katsun food stamps. Konsidera ya taya` este na ayudu. Muñga sa` man-apbende hit ampoduñg dadeg entalu` Oleai yan Puntan Muchot.

Satton na diniseha ginen i publiku na u guaha antau na tinilaika gi modun linala` niha pa`gu. Tat ti nina` fañuñfua` gi halom fache`

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



miserapble. Ti isau i tautau soluke diskuidun i man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni`.

■ ■ ■

Sige hu akanteha haf` sustansian mamfog flores para korona ni mapega gi ilu` sino agaga` tautau. Un` amku` umesplika na kontodu manhokan flores ma`a`ayeg ginen i hatdin. I mas manbonitu yan gatbu na flores titife`.

Ilegña i amku` na gi duranten matufog korona, un` pepega mauleg na intension para ayu na prohimu` sino prohimia i manae` dispues nu ayu na korona. Pues anog na ti kinibrutu matife` flores` sino matufogña. Deste tutuhon debi i mas manbonitu marikohe yan matufog gi hilu` mauleg na intension. Sumen mauleg na patte gi kutturan natibu!

■ ■ ■

Gi antigun na komunida, ma-ofresen ñaiaihon etre manha yan fina` ame (mama`) kulan modun para tanae` mauleg na attension i bisita-ta.

I manha sinede i bisita muna` freskugue` mientras i templan mama` nina` batbaru fumotma palabras siha para u sañgan dibuenamente haf` finatoña. Puru este siha eksisiun tradision ni esta man-maliñgu gi modetnu na komunidan Marianas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A deliberate injury: Part 2

In my letter last week titled “A deliberate injury,” I disclosed that the major culprit that broke the NMI Retirement Fund’s backbone was H.B. 15-137 that became Public Law 15-15, sending the Fund to ICU. However, there are other contributing factors that suffocated the Fund first before Public Law 15-15 severely broke the Fund’s backbone. I also mentioned that there are incumbent legislators who were in the 15th Legislature who will again be seeking re-election this November’s general election. The only incumbents who voted against H.B. 15-137 in the 15th Legislature were Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero and Sen. Paul A. Manglona as per the voting record of the 15th Legislature.

The other contributing factors that suffocated the Fund were Executive Order 2012-06, to seal the administration from remitting its employer’s contribution to the Fund; H.B. 8-300 (Public Law 8-30), to establish the 30 percent early retirement bonus; and H.B. 6-29 (Public Law 6-17), to consider college degrees and military service as “vesting service” for purpose of determining eligibility to retire. These bills and other actions of the Legislature created unfunded liabilities for the Fund and the Legislature failed terribly to appropriate adequate funding to pay off these liabilities.

My fellow retirees, the latest unfunded liability is the 25-percent reduction in our pension. Majority of the members to the 18th Legislature wants us to believe that we will get paid 100 percent of our pension before election. Eulogio Inos wants us to believe that it is only a deferment. It is not! For every 15 days that we don’t receive this 25 percent, we lose this amount forever. Thank you, Eulogio Inos, for your politricks and for creating your Frankenstein monster with Betty Johnson. Thank you, members of the 18th Legislature, for not protecting our rights under NMI Constitution Article 3 Section 20. We will remember all of you who participated in injuring the Fund whenever we are late in paying our car loan, when we struggle paying our CUC bills, when our cars run out of gas on the road, when we struggle to make co-payments on our prescription medicines, when we struggle to pay our doctor’s deductibles, when we no longer able to pay our mortgage loan, and when we struggle to enjoy our life in general. Most especially, we will remember Oscar M. Babauta, Ray N. Yumul, Arnold I. Palacios, Jude U. Hofschneider, and Francisco S. Dela Cruz for voting yes on H.B. 15-137. For this upcoming November 2014 general election we will make sure that all of you remember our sufferings.

Jesus I. Taisague
Koblerville, Saipan

Learn from your history, Republicans

History should have taught the Republican Party a valuable lesson: Don’t let infighting destroy the party as you are not the party of those in charge but a party *of* the people. All hell broke loose when Fitial decided he wanted to be governor and split the party, creating the Covenant Party and look at what happened. He got the governor’s seat and still ended up right back where he started as a Republican.

But it is *how* Fitial got to be governor that is the lesson for Republicans. It all started when Heinz wanted to unseat a sitting governor, which really goes against the ideals of the national parties in the mainland. Heinz’s challenging Babauta the primary killed the best chance for the Republicans to win the governor’s race. Even though he won the primary, it divided the Republicans. Heinz might be governor now and the CNMI might be a lot different and better had he waited. Now the scenario is reversed, with the primary offering an opportunity to reunite the entire GOP. Babauta is still a member of the Republican Party but the powers-that-be will not give him the chance he deserves and Heinz is also a Republican without a party, which tells me both men have a real uphill battle.

Babauta did the right and honorable thing by giving Heinz his primary that split the party to this very day. Now the same scenario can work in reverse to meet the need for Republicans to fully reunite as a party. Avoiding the primary will only diminish the party’s chances of capturing the governor’s seat. It would be prudent to give the people you want to support the Republican Party a chance to decide, not party figureheads who are likely do what their leader wants instead of doing what the people need want and deserve! The Republicans have committed to Inos & Torres but Inos is not an elected governor so the party doesn’t even knows his actual political value to the party, which should be tested anyway. The party leaders also

No freedom of speech?

Sorry Mr. Bennett, since you’re writing for us to read I thought we are entitled to an opinion. I guess if you were my teacher I would have gotten an F on my report card.

I did read your article, and I guess your words are so sophisticated for a person like myself who finds it difficult to read because it was long and some words were hard to understand. I apologize because people like me don’t like to read long letters. I guess I should have read your article further down. Someone also shared a website when he/she commented on my article and I was able to get a glimpse of it.

He was right, I’m pretty behind on the issue. And cannabis legalization is now being legalized in most states. The studies about cannabis are: it is not as harmful as tobacco or alcohol, and the benefits of using MJ are not as harmful as other drugs. In some states, since it was legalized the price for MJ went down. For some reason, could it be that if MJ is legal, people would buy MJ instead? The potential to generate revenue is higher than tobacco and alcohol. The risk is

need to realize the Republican Party is still splintered and the power play of reuniting with the Covenant Party really didn’t get anyone excited in the general public—just the party loyalists. The IRs are still out there and there are still Independents that were once Republicans and one is now a Democrat candidate for the governor’s seat. So Inos & Torres have an unclear but sure uphill battle too.

Given the potential number of gubernatorial candidates there is going to be a runoff anyway, as a majority is required. So why not save us all some time, save some money, save the Republican Party’s face, and try to unite the entire GOP through a primary and even invite Heinz to join in and for the IRs to give their support for a Republican candidate. We the people need only two strong candidates for governor: a Democrat and a Republican; not a pecking list to choose from. I’m pushing for a two-candidate election for governor because we need to get back to the basics of politics serving the people and not parties that serve individuals. This may be the only chance to reunite the entire Republican Party, so be men/women enough to come together in the best interest of the CNMI and let the chips fall where they may in a primary.

P.S. Kudos to the Democrats for taking the necessary steps to inject a possible cure into our sick democracy with your candidate for governor. The absence of the Democratic Party is the primary reason our government was breeding such horrible politics that went unchecked for seven years until the people just got fed up. I truly wish all the gubernatorial candidates the very best of luck as it will be the people who will make the final decision for governor—not parties or party leaders.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

addiction only but there have been no studies whether it has any harmful effects like that of alcohol or other drugs.

Just so you know, my mother never taught me how to speak or write English because she doesn’t know how, but she sure did teach me how to respect others. This behavior you described about me, I learned it from people like you.






You said I told you so, but if you did then I would have known, but you didn’t because you only assumed we know what you’re talking about. So, don’t worry, I wouldn’t criticize your campaign again, and I’m sorry for my comments. I shouldn’t assume like you, that you’ll understand my point of view, in asking you to do something for people like me in order to understand what we want to know.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northwest winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. North winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81

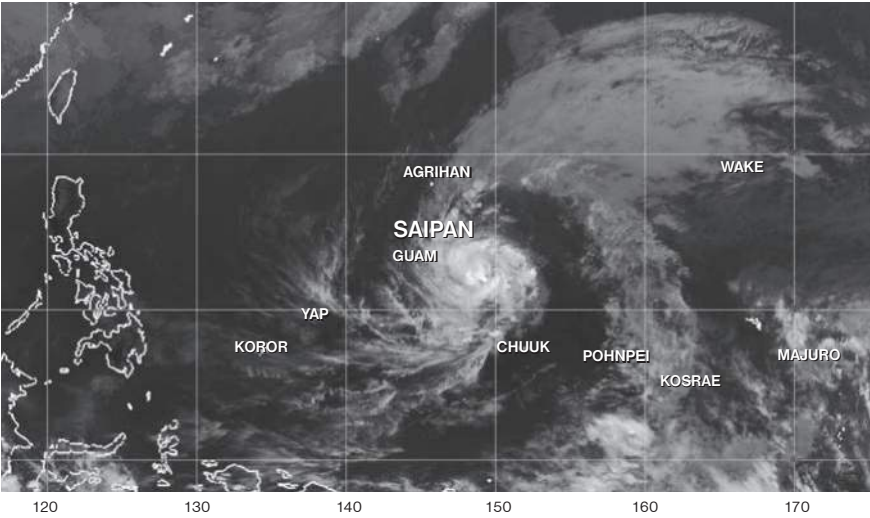
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 63
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 26
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 66
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 67
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 29 ▼ 22
Osaka	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 38
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 36
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 31
Rome	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 40
Salem	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 50
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 26
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 31 ▼ 17

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
9:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
4:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
10:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Faxai (03W) is centered near 12N150E or 340 miles east-southeast of Guam with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph and moving northward at 6 mph. Numerous showers with heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near and south of the center within 130 miles of a line from 8N146E to 12N151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present within 100 miles of a line from 13N146 to 19N151E to 10N162E. For more information on Tropical Storm Faxai, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A cold front extends southwestward from west of two To Island near 25N137E to beyond 130E at 21N. Extensive cloudiness with scattered showers are found northwest of the front to beyond 25N. A near-equatorial trough stretches northeastward from southwest of Koror near 2N130E to Tropical Storm Faxai then turns southeastward to end southeast of Kosrae at EQ164E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with this feature are seen near Pohnpei to south of Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 7N157E to EQ163E. A shear line runs westward from south of Midway near through 12N180 to end northwest of Kwajalein near 14N159E. Extensive clouds and scattered showers are present along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers from near Majuro eastward within 100 miles of a line from 8N170E to 9N178E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:28 AM	9:13 PM
Wednesday	9:14 AM	10:08 PM
Thursday	10:01 AM	11:02 PM
Friday	10:49 AM	11:54 PM
Saturday	11:37 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ603 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Golden Harvest students shine at PGFC

Students of Golden Harvest International School once again displayed amazing showmanship at the recent Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Oleai Elementary School on Jan. 11, 2014.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the parents, teachers and judges who continue to be of valuable service to the school.

Congratulations to all the winners!

K2 DIVISION

CSPK A

1st place (K5): Maria Corazon Batallones, Kristel Andrea Lubi, Dream Jayna Mariano, Julie Anne Chavez

3rd place (K5): Jerick Russell Bernabe, Anthony Christian Rivera, Quince Emanuele Tizon, David Christian Salinas

CSPK B

1st place (2nd Grade): Akysha Eunice Castro, Ivan Yuri Ferrera, Mark Janier Chavez, Jesse Jack Stole

2nd place (K5): Jennifer Islam, Amanda Rayne Cervantes, Selena Eve Ferrera, Quinn Thomas Palacios, Haruki Honda

4th place (1st Grade): Sohgo Honda, Ranier Joy Solis, Ernest Mikhail Licop, Crispin Joseph Eliseo Saures

5th place (K5): Jayvee Caluya, Marlon Bautista Jr., Jan Andrei Dumagan, Lance Peter Ignacio

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

3rd place (K5): Maria Corazon Batallones



▲ The K2 contingent of the Golden Harvest International School at the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Oleai Elementary School on Jan. 11, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



➤ Golden Harvest International School's contingent to the 3-5 Division of the Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Oleai Elementary School on Jan. 11, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

4th place (1st Grade): Ranier Joy Solis

DUO CATEGORY

4th place (2nd Grade): Ivan Yuri Ferrera, Akysha Eunice Castro

5th place (K5): Kristel Andrea Lubi, Anthony Christian Rivera

RF CH

1st place (1st Grade): Jesse Jack Stole

3-5 DIVISION

RF CH

1st place (4th Grade): Michelle Leon Guerrero

RF

3rd place (3rd Grade): John Paul Labadan

DUO CATEGORY

1st place (5th Grade): Vince Philip Salvador, John Isaac San Nicolas

3rd place (3rd Grade): Tyana Cristine Hix, Christine Joyce Caluya

CHORAL SPEAKING

3rd place (3rd Grade): Tyana Cristine Hix, Christine Joyce Caluya, Amber Sydney Sureta, John Paul Labadan

5th place (4th & 5th Grade): Sebastian Bernardo, Raesyl Gerard Solis, Aaron Ignacio, Vince Philip Salvador, John Isaac San Nicolas

Coaches: Imelda Bautista, Flordeliza Flores, Leonor Marfil, Nestor Tam, Aida Vitoria, Marilyn Divino

Judges: Novelita Galvez, Belinda Acosta, Elenita Duarte, Mathew Leon Guerrero, Pearl Santiago

Rota school undergoes child care disaster preparedness training



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Edward Maratita Jr., center, poses for a souvenir photo with DCCA-CCDF Emi Pamintuan and Northern Marianas International School teachers after the training.

Most people in the CNMI, the United States, or any U.S. territories have given more thought to emergency preparation following the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, or Super Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013.

We hope the risk of this type of disaster is low; however, the possibility of disaster has always existed in the form of natural calamities: typhoons, tsunamis, earthquakes, fires, or floods.

Other emergency preparedness such as power outages, bomb scares, terrorism, or chemical spills may require evacuation of children to safe sites. Furthermore, transportation problems could delay parents and require the provider to care for children longer than expected.

"Regardless of the actual event, child caregivers should be prepared to provide safe, high quality care for children," said Carmen H. Atalig, administrator/principal of the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota.

"Disaster preparation for providers and teachers of young children requires development of policy and procedures, staff training, and practice. Also, it will give parents ease of mind to know that our facility has taken the time to train," Atalig added.

As part of being a child care provider, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja participated in the Child Care Providers Emergency Preparedness and Response Training held on Saipan.

The training emphasized the importance of awareness and commitment to disaster readiness, encouraged facility assessment of child care provider's capability to respond, reinforced knowledge of child care providers on disaster readiness, promote the value of volunteerism to accomplish disaster-related initiatives, and upgraded individual facility's disaster readiness Standard Operating Procedure.

Edward Maratita Jr., who attended the training, said: "It is in the best interest of young ones that child care providers partake in periodic exercises to test their emergency preparedness abilities. Disaster plans should cover multiple types of responses, including evacuation, shelter-in-place, and lockdowns."

"The needs of each program or school are unique, depending upon number and ages of children, location, and available community resources," added Maratita.

"With Mr. Ed's [Maratita] knowledge and background in military and law enforcement, I feel content that our school is in good hands and not being worried as far as safety, coordination, and preparedness in the event of disasters," said Atalig.

The administration, faculty and staff would like to express their appreciation to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care and Development Fund Program, Maribel Loste, Emi Pamintuan, Leilani Marciano, and Rita Olopai. (ESFDB)

Manta Ray Battalion visits Hopwood for feeder visit



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Manta Ray Battalion staff, Drill Team, Hopwood Leadership Corp and Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas.

The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion held a feeder visit on Feb. 28, 2014, at Hopwood Junior High School. The feeder visit was conducted to give information about the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps and to encourage

students to join the program. During the feeder visit, the Manta Ray Battalion staff prepared a presentation for the *Hilitais* about JROTC as well as a performance by the Armed Exhibition Drill Team and Unarmed Fancy Drill Team. (PR)



Above, the Manta Ray Battalion Unarmed Fancy Drill Team performance.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Manta Ray Battalion Armed Exhibition Drill Team performance.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COLOR GUARD
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Kagman High School JROTC Color Guard Team presents the colors for the Department of Youth Services' Parent Leadership Conference at the Kagman Community Center on Feb. 22, 2014.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cadet Maj. Joann Bandalas explains the benefits of JROTC.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hopwood students listen to the presentation.

Business

Wage fight propels worker from KFC to White House



Naquasia LeGrand speaks during an interview on Thursday Feb. 27, 2014 in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Naquasia LeGrand was frying chicken, sweeping floors and serving customers for \$7.25 an hour when she was recruited by union organizers to join a campaign for higher pay.

In the 15 months since, the 22-year-old KFC employee from Brooklyn has become one of the most visible faces of a movement that has staged strikes across the country demanding a \$15-an-hour wage and union representation for fast-food workers.

She promoted the cause on “The Colbert Report,” joined a strategy session with congressional Democrats and visited President Barack Obama at the White House.

“We never thought it would even get this far,” LeGrand said. “We’re just sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

When LeGrand was first approached by organizers of the group Fast Food Forward, her grandmother told her to stay away from unions. “She just heard ‘union’ and thought maybe, like, I was going to lose my job or something.”

“But you know, sometimes kids don’t listen to their grandmas.”

Her life has been a whirlwind since. She started organizing small fast-food protests and flash strikes in the city, and eventually in more than 100 cities across the country. A newspaper profile of her led to the Jan. 16 appearance on “Colbert,” and that led to her trip to Washington.

She laughed when host Stephen Colbert asked, “Are you at all afraid the colonel might come after you?”

But she stuck to her talking points.

“I worked at two KFCs and still couldn’t make it,” she told him. “These corporations are making billions and billions of

dollars,” she added later.

“It’s an opportunity for me to represent all of the workers around the country,” she said in an interview last week. “So I got to make sure I do things right, make sure I get our message out there, what we want, what’s our demands and, you know, set it straight.”

While these have indeed been heady days, the reality for LeGrand is as close as her next shift at KFC, where she tries to make enough to get by in one of the nation’s most expensive cities.

Six feet tall with cheeks that dimple when she smiles, LeGrand was interviewed near the two-bedroom apartment in Canarsie she shares with her grandmother and other family members. She said she was tired after closing the store at 1:40 a.m. and making it home at around 4 a.m. thanks to a complicated subway commute.

Most weeks LeGrand works just 15 hours. She had a second job at another KFC but it closed, so now she has lots of time for organizing other fast-food employees.

“The first thing I ask them is ‘What’s your biggest issue?’” LeGrand said. “Talk to me first.”

Kendall Fells, the organizing director of Fast Food Forward, said LeGrand runs citywide meetings and deserves credit for building much of the campaign in New York.

Last month, LeGrand was invited along with other fast food workers to watch as Obama signed an executive order requiring federal contractors to pay \$10.10 an hour.

“I don’t care if I was in the back, I was in the White House with the president in front of me!” she said.

She also attended the House Democratic Retreat in Cambridge, Md., and spoke at a workshop on raising the mini-

mum wage moderated by Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota.

“Movements will throw up leaders,” Ellison said. “This low-wage worker movement has thrown up Naquasia.”

Restaurant industry representatives say the campaign’s demands are unrealistic. “Economics won’t allow for a \$15-an-hour wage,” said Jay Perron, vice president of government affairs and public policy for the International Franchise Association, which represents franchise owners.

Perron would not address LeGrand’s specific situation but said entry-level fast food jobs can lead to something better.

“These jobs can turn into really good, high-paying jobs if you go from an hourly worker to a manager,” he said.

KFC spokesman Rick Maynard said franchisees pay competitive wages and provide training and development so employees have an opportunity to build their careers.

Backers of Fast Food Forward say the chance to advance in the industry is minuscule. The National Employment Law Project, citing data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, says just 2.2 percent of jobs in the fast food industry are in managerial, professional, or technical occupations.

LeGrand said she likes serving people but never planned a career at KFC.

She once thought of studying graphic design but now sees herself more as an organizer. She even won over her once-skeptical grandmother, who now proudly introduces LeGrand as “my granddaughter, the activist.”

“I have a good way of talking to people,” LeGrand said. “So maybe that’s why the movement kind of worked out. I talk too much.”

Nation

US prepares tough response for Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Western powers on Sunday prepared a tough response to Russia’s military advance into Ukraine and warned that Moscow could face economic penalties, diplomatic isolation and bolstered allied defenses in Europe unless it retreats.

The crisis may prove to be a game-changer for President Barack Obama’s national security policy, forcing him to give up his foreign policy shift to Asia and to maintain U.S. troop levels in Europe to limit Russia’s reach.

The ill will and mistrust also could spill over on two other global security fronts—Syria and Iran—where Russia has been a necessary partner with the West.

Russian President Vladimir Putin gave no indication that he would heed the West’s warnings. Hundreds of armed men surrounded a Ukrainian military base in Crimea, a pro-Russian area. In Kiev, Ukraine’s capital, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk alerted allies that “we are on the brink of disaster.”

Senior Obama administration officials said they believe Russia now has complete operational control over Crimea and has more than 6,000 forces in the region. The U.S. was also watching for ethnic skirmishes in other areas of eastern Ukraine, though the officials said they had not yet seen Russian military moves elsewhere. The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss the

situation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Secretary of State John Kerry said he has consulted with other world leaders, and “every single one of them are prepared to go to the hilt in order to isolate Russia with respect to this invasion.” Obama spoke Sunday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister David Cameron, and Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski.

Kerry planned to travel to Kiev Tuesday for meetings with the Ukrainian government. Officials said the Obama administration would also focus this week on putting together a package of economic assistance for Ukraine.

The White House issued a joint statement Sunday evening on behalf of the Group of Seven saying the G-7 had suspended participation in the planning for an international summit in Russia this summer. In the statement, the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom condemned Russia’s “clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.” They said Russia’s advances in Ukraine violate the “principles and values” on which the G-7 and Group of Eight economic group, which includes Russia, operate.

In Brussels, NATO’s secretary-general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, said Russia’s actions have violated a U.N. charter. He said the alliance

was re-evaluating its relationship with Russia.

“There are very serious repercussions that can flow out of this,” Kerry said.

Beyond economic sanctions and visa bans, freezing Russian assets, and trade and investment penalties, Kerry said Moscow risks being booted out of the powerful Group of Eight group of world powers as pay-back for the military incursion.

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew told a Washington audience on Sunday that the United States is ready to work with other countries and the International Monetary Fund to provide support to bolster Ukraine’s economy. He said he had been assured in discussions with Ukrainian officials that the new government is prepared to pursue the necessary reforms to overhaul the country’s ailing economy.

Lew said that the administration was ready to supplement emergency IMF loans to cushion the impact economic reforms would have on vulnerable Ukrainians.

“The United States is prepared to work with its bilateral and multilateral partners to provide as much support as Ukraine needs to restore financial stability and return to economic growth if the new government implements the necessary reforms,” Lew said during a speech Sunday night to the annual policy conference of AIPAC, America’s largest pro-Israel lobbying group.

Wide range of wintry conditions affects half of US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tourists flocked to the monuments in the nation’s capital Sunday to enjoy 50-degree temperatures before yet another winter storm was expected to dump up to a foot of snow on parts of the East Coast.

In the latest blast of a harsh winter, forecasters said a layer of ice and as much as 10 inches of snow was possible by the end of Monday in Washington and the Mid-Atlantic region, while up to 8 inches of snow was predicted across parts of southern Pennsylvania. Nearly a foot of snow was expected in parts of New Jersey.

“I’m over it,” said Yasmon Hanks, 24, of Hampton, Va., echoing thoughts of many who’ve been cooped up inside this winter. Hanks visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall with her husband, Lynwood, and two young children. She was happy to be able to get outside, she said, because “I thought it was going to be way worse.”

Elsewhere on the Mall, joggers were out in shorts and T-shirts, families flew kites and

tour guides led groups around landmarks such as the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial. Cherry blossom trees were growing new buds for the spring.

But oh how so much can change in a matter of hours. More snow and ice, perhaps as much as 2 inches falling every hour, were on the way ahead of Monday’s morning commute. By late Sunday afternoon, rain was moved into the Washington area, temperatures dropped and the city had declared a snow emergency beginning early Monday.

On Sunday night, the federal government announced that its Washington-area offices will be closed Monday. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, which sets leave policies for 300,000 federal workers in the region, says non-emergency personnel are granted excused absences for the day.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court was expected to be open and had arguments scheduled for Monday.

A round of wintry precipi-

tation moved across much of the nation Sunday, bringing a mix of freezing rain and heavy snow to central and eastern states. Authorities warned of possible power outages and flight disruptions from weather that could affect millions.

Ken and Linda Mokry, of Chicago, took advantage of the 54-degree temperature in Washington to visit as many monuments as possible before the storm.

“You’ve got grass! We don’t even have grass to see at home yet,” Linda Mokry, 66, said. “We had our first snow right at the end of November ... and we’ve had snow ever since then, so we’ve had a long, long winter—way too long.”

Ken Mokry noticed the cherry blossom trees are forming tiny buds, making him wish spring would arrive sooner so they could see the trees blossom in pink and white.

“I hope this cold snap doesn’t hurt anything,” he said. “We were really hoping that we would be able to see them. Maybe next time.”

Asia

Seoul: NKorea fires two more suspected missiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two additional suspected short-range missiles into the sea Monday amid ongoing military exercises between Seoul and Washington, which the North calls a preparation for an attack, South Korean officials said.

The launches appear to be in protest of the drills and to test North Korea's weapons systems. They followed South Korea's announcement that North Korea last Thursday fired four short-range Scud missiles with a range of more than 200 kilometers (about 125 miles) into the North's eastern waters.

North Korea routinely test-fires short-range missiles and outside analysts say the recent launches weren't expected to raise tensions, as was the case last spring when the rival Koreas exchanged repeated threats of war following the North's third nuclear test in February last year. Recently, North Korea has pushed for improved ties with South Korea and taken conciliatory ges-

tures, including rare reunions of Korean War-divided families last month.

On Monday, two projectiles blasted from the North's east coast flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles) before landing in the high seas, South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told reporters.

Kim said the launches were made without a prior notice. He described them as a provocation posing a serious threat to international aviation and maritime navigations and civilian safety. "North Korea is doing an act of double standard by taking a peace offensive ostensibly, but later launching reckless provocative acts," he said.

South Korea is trying to confirm what exactly North Korea fired on Monday based on the speed and trajectory of the projectiles, but an initial investigation showed they were suspected to be Scud-series missiles, a Defense Ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with department rules.

Chang Yong Seok of the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies at the Seoul National University said that the launches appeared to be part of North Korean military training aimed at coping with the South Korea-U.S. drills. He said that tensions could be heightened if North Korea tested a longer-range missile capable of hitting Japan or the U.S. territory of Guam.

Analysts say the North's recent charm offensive toward South Korea is largely aimed at helping lure foreign investment and aid to help revive the country's troubled economy.

The two Koreas are divided along the world's most heavily fortified border since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 American troops are deployed in South Korea to deter potential aggression from North Korea. South Korea and the U.S. have said they have no intentions of invading North Korea and that their ongoing springtime drills are defensive in nature.

Australia, NZ demand Russia envoys explain Ukraine

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The Russian ambassadors stationed in Australia and New Zealand were each summoned by their host countries Monday to face a grilling about Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said Russian Ambassador Vladimir Morozov was told "in no uncertain terms" about Australia's concerns during a meeting with an official.

"Russia should back off, it should withdraw its forces from the Ukraine and people of the Ukraine ought to be able to determine their future themselves," Abbot told parliament during question time.

Abbott said Trade Minister

Andrew Robb had cancelled a planned visit to Russia in light of the developments.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said Russian Ambassador Valery Tereshchenko was summoned to meet a top New Zealand official Monday.

"New Zealand is deeply alarmed at the escalation of tensions in Ukraine over recent days and we condemn the breach of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity," McCully said.

McCully called on Russia "to take steps to reduce tensions and to engage in consultations."

In an interview with Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio,

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop urged Ukraine's new government to continue its restraint in the face of provocation, adding she was concerned to learn a request from Ukraine for urgent talks with Russia had been knocked back.

Asked if her government was considering expelling the Russian envoy, Bishop replied: "Well, first thing's first."

Bishop said that Australia made clear its unequivocal support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty and that the use of force was "completely unacceptable."

The Australian government has advised its citizens not to travel to Ukraine.

Officials: Gunmen kill 11 in Pakistani capital

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani officials say gunmen have attacked a court complex in the capital of Islamabad, killing 11 people and wounding 20. Police official Nabi Awan says an unknown number of gunmen stormed the area in the capital where judges' chambers and lawyers' offices are located. He put the death toll at 11. He said the gunmen also threw hand grenades as well in Monday's attack. Dr. Aisha Eisani, a spokeswoman for the main hospital in Islamabad, confirmed the numbers in comments to reporters. Pakistani television showed images of the area with windows blown out, walls torn and black-suited lawyers carrying what appeared to be dead and wounded from the buildings. Policemen with weapons raised ran into the area. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

PH: 16 hurt in communist rebel attacks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine military officials say communist rebel attacks using land mines have wounded 11 troops and 5 civilians in the south of the country. Army Col. Marcos Normal Flores, Jr, a brigade commander in the area, condemned the attacks Monday as a violation of international humanitarian law. A military statement says New People's Army guerrillas encountered troops Sunday morning in Davao del Sur province, triggering an hour-long clash. As troops maneuvered, the rebels exploded a land mine, wounding 11 soldiers. It quoted villagers as saying rebels carried away four dead colleagues. The guerrillas later set off a land mine as three ambulances were heading to evacuate injured troops, wounding five civilian disaster response volunteers. Talks to end the rebellion, one of the world's longest-running Marxist insurgencies, have stalled since 2011.

World

World scrambles as Russia tightens its grip on Crimea

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Warning that it was "on the brink of disaster," Ukraine put its military on high alert Sunday and appealed for international help to avoid what it feared was the possibility of a wider invasion by Russia.

Outrage over Russia's military moves mounted in world capitals, with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry calling on President Vladimir Putin to pull back from "an incredible act of aggression."

A day after Russia captured the Crimean Peninsula without firing a shot, fears grew in the Ukrainian capital and beyond that Russia might seek to expand its control by seizing other parts of eastern Ukraine. Senior Obama administration officials said the U.S. now believes that Russia has complete operational control of Crimea, a pro-Russian area of the country, and has more than 6,000 troops in the region.

Faced with the Russian threat, Ukraine's new government moved to consolidate its authority, naming new regional governors in the pro-Russian east, enlisting the support of the country's wealthy businessmen and dismissing the head of the country's navy after he declared allegiance to the pro-Russian government in Crimea.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said there was no reason for Russia to invade Ukraine and warned that "we are on the brink of disaster."

"We believe that our Western partners and the entire global community will support the territorial integrity and unity of Ukraine," he said Sunday in Kiev.

World leaders rushed to try to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

NATO held an emergency meeting in Brussels, Britain's foreign minister flew to Kiev to support its new government and Kerry was to travel to Ukraine on Tuesday. The U.S., France and Britain debated the possibility of boycotting the next Group of Eight economic summit, to be held in June in Sochi, the host of Russia's successful Winter Olympics.

On Sunday evening, the White House issued a joint statement on behalf of the Group of Seven saying they are suspending participation in the planning for the upcoming summit because Russia's advances in the Ukraine violate the "princi-

Crimea in the middle

Ukraine has accused Russia of carrying out an armed invasion by sending forces to occupy two airports in the Crimea region.

What is known

- Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has accused Russian forces of seizing Simferopol's civilian airport
- More than 10 Russian military helicopters flew into Ukrainian airspace over Crimea
- Crimea is Ukraine's only Russian-majority region



ples and values" on which the G-7 and G-8 operate.

In Kiev, Moscow and other cities, thousands of protesters took to the streets to either decry the Russian occupation or celebrate Crimea's return to its former ruler.

"Support us, America!" a group of protesters chanted outside the U.S. Embassy in Kiev. One young girl held up a placard reading: "No Russian aggression!"

"Russia! Russia!" the crowd chanted in Moscow.

Kerry, interviewed on U.S. television news shows, talked about boycotting the G-8 summit, as well as possible visa bans, asset freezes and trade and investment penalties against Russia. All the foreign ministers he talked to were prepared "to go to the hilt" to isolate Russia, Kerry said.

President Barack Obama also spoke Sunday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister David Cameron, and Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski.

NATO issued a statement saying it "condemns Russia's military escalation in Crimea" and demanding that Russia respect its obligations under the U.N. charter. Ukraine is not a NATO member, meaning the U.S. and Europe are not obligated to come to its defense, but the country has taken part in some alliance exercises.

"We are on a very dangerous track," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said. But "it is still possible to turn around. A new division of

Europe can still be prevented."

So far, however, Ukraine's new government and the West have been powerless to counter Russia's tactics. Armed men in uniforms without insignia have moved freely about Crimea for days, occupying airports, smashing equipment at an air base and besieging a Ukrainian infantry base.

Putin has defied calls from the West to pull back his troops, insisting that Russia has a right to protect its interests and those of Russian-speakers in Crimea and elsewhere in Ukraine. His confidence is matched by the knowledge that Ukraine's 46 million people have divided loyalties. While much of western Ukraine wants closer ties with the 28-nation European Union, its eastern and southern regions like Crimea look to Russia for support.

Russia has long wanted to reclaim the lush Crimean Peninsula, part of its territory until 1954. Russia's Black Sea Fleet pays Ukraine millions annually to be stationed at the Crimean port of Sevastopol and nearly 60 percent of Crimea's residents identify themselves as Russian.

During a phone conversation Sunday with Merkel, Putin "directed her attention to the unrelenting threat of violence from ultranationalist forces (in Ukraine) that endangered the life and legal interests of Russian citizens," according to a Kremlin statement.

"The measures taken by Russia are fully adequate with regard to the current extraordinary situation," it said.

Focus



Maksim Piazza, right, Sofijka Piazza, center, and her friend Jillian, left, who are all of Ukrainian descent, join a protest rally in front of the Russian embassy, in Washington, Sunday, March 2, 2014. Igniting a tense stand-off, Russian forces surrounded a Ukrainian army base Sunday just as the country began mobilizing in response to the surprise Russian takeover of Crimea. Outrage over Russia's tactics mounted in world capitals, with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry calling on President Vladimir Putin to pull back from "an incredible act of aggression."

A Cold War reprise as US seeks Moscow's isolation

By LARA JAKES
AP NATIONAL SECURITY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a sudden reprise of Cold War sensibilities, the U.S. and its allies are weighing sanctions on Moscow and whether to bolster defenses in Europe in response to Russia's military advances on Ukraine. Secretary of State John Kerry, soon on his way to Ukraine's capital, said world leaders "are prepared to go to the hilt in order to isolate Russia with respect to this invasion."

Much as when superpower tensions ruled world affairs, missile defense systems and troop levels in Europe have again become urgent questions in Washington and beyond, a renewed reality that may force President Barack Obama's administration to give up its intended foreign policy shift to Asia indefinitely.

Also echoing the era of East-West confrontation, there appears to be little if any taste in the West for a direct military response to Russia's provocation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin gave no indication that he would heed the West's warnings. Hundreds of armed men surrounded a Ukrainian military base in Crimea, a pro-Russian area. In Kiev, Ukraine's capital, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk alerted allies that "we are on the brink of disaster."

Senior Obama administration officials said they believe Russia now has complete operational control over Crimea and has more than 6,000 forces in the region. The U.S. was also watching for ethnic skirmishes in other areas of eastern Ukraine, though

the officials said they had not yet seen Russian military moves elsewhere. The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss the situation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kerry said he has consulted other world leaders and all are committed to doing what is necessary to isolate Russia diplomatically. President Barack Obama spoke Sunday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister David Cameron and Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski.

Kerry planned to travel to Kiev on Tuesday for meetings with the Ukrainian government. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said the United States is ready to work with other countries and the International Monetary Fund to provide support for Ukraine's economy.

In Brussels, NATO's secretary-general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, said Russia's actions have violated a U.N. charter. He said the alliance was re-evaluating its relationship with Russia.

"There are very serious repercussions that can flow out of this," Kerry said.

Beyond economic sanctions and visa bans, freezing Russian assets, and trade and investment penalties, Kerry said Moscow risks being booted out of the powerful Group of Eight group of world powers as payback for the military incursion.

Several U.S. senators also called for bolstered missile defense systems based in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Russia is "going to be inviting



Flashpoint Crimea

Reports that former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich may be headed toward Crimea have sparked fears that the majority ethnic Russian peninsula could become the next flashpoint.

At a glance

- **Status** Autonomous republic within Ukraine
- **Size** 10,077 sq. mi. (26,100 sq. km)
- **Population, 2012** 2 million
- **Ethnic Russian** 58.5%
- **Ethnic Ukrainian** 24.4%
- **Other** 12.1
- **Crimean Tatars** 5.4
- **Main industries** Tourism, agriculture, mining; Russian Black Sea Fleet stationed at Sevastopol

Source: BBC
Graphic: Pat Carr

© 2014 MCT

History in brief

- **1443** After centuries under Greek and Roman influence, became the center of a Tatar Khanate, then part of the Ottoman Empire
- **Mid-18th century** Falls under Russian influence
- **1853-1856** Crimean War – Britain and France try to limit Russian influence in the region
- **1917** Becomes autonomous republic within Russia after the Bolshevik revolution
- **1940s** Occupied by Germany during World War II; Stalin deports Tatars accusing them of collaboration; many perish
- **1954** Transferred to Ukraine

major difficulties for the long term," said Kerry. "The people of Ukraine will not sit still for this. They know how to fight."

Still, it was clear that few in the West were prepared to respond immediately to Putin with military force.

At the Vatican, Pope Francis used his traditional Sunday midday appearance in St. Peter's Square to urge world leaders to promote dialogue as a way of resolving the crisis in Ukraine.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., discussing the potential of U.S.

military strikes against Russian troops in Crimea, said, "I don't think anyone is advocating for that." One of the administration officials indicated that the U.S. was not weighing military action to counter Russia's advances, saying the Obama administration's efforts were focused on political, economic and diplomatic options.

Rubio and fellow GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said the Obama administration should return to plans it abandoned in 2009 to place long-range missile interceptors and radar in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Russia believed the program was aimed at countering its own missiles and undermining its nuclear deterrent. The White House denied that and has worked instead to place medium-range interceptors in Poland and Romania—aimed at stopping missiles from Iran and North Korea.

Experts said potential U.S. budget cuts to Army units based in Germany also could be slowed, or scrapped completely, to prevent a catastrophic erosion of stability and democracy from creeping across Europe.

The Pentagon is considering new reductions to Army units in Germany that already have been slashed under Obama. Currently, there are two Army brigades—up to 10,000 soldiers—based in Germany, where armored and infantry units have dug in since World War II. At the end of the Cold War, more than 200,000 American forces were stationed across Europe.

Damon Wilson, an Eastern European scholar, former diplomat and executive vice president of the Washington-based Atlantic Council think tank, said the U.S. must be ready to pour its efforts into Ukraine, even at the cost of policies and priorities elsewhere.

"We should be no longer deluded by the fact that Europe is a safe spot of stability and security, and not a security risk for the U.S.," Wilson said Sunday. He said that if Putin goes unchecked, it could result in war—the second one on NATO's borders.

The 3-year-old civil war in Syria is already a crisis for neighboring Turkey, a NATO member state. Ukraine is not a NATO member, but it borders four nations that are—Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania.

Russia has made clear it is ready to provide weapons and military equipment to governments across the Mideast that have irked Washington. Russia's permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council gives it veto power over major world deliberations.

"The challenge is, we do need to have some kind of working relationship with Russia?" Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., asked Sunday. "And while we can impose these costs and take these steps, we've got to be mindful of the fact that they can impose their own costs on us."

Kerry appeared Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," ABC's "This Week" and NBC's "Meet the Press." Rubio was on NBC, while Graham and Schiff were interviewed on CNN.

Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

The worst new car that I ever drove was the 2000 Kia Rio. The Kias that followed were better, but not by much.

That changed with the arrival of the 2010 Kia Soul, an outrageously funky box that proudly proclaimed Kia's arrival on the world stage and maturation into a distinctive brand that stands apart from its Asian competitors. Yes, the Soul was different, an image reinforced by its marketing, which featured rap-loving hamsters.

The Soul was indeed the design soul of Kia's line-up, and every vehicle that has followed in its wake employs some aspect of its aesthetic.

So you can understand why

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Kia Soul

- Engine: 2.0-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- Wheelbase: 101.2 inches
- Length: 163 inches
- Weight: 2,837 pounds
- Cargo space: 24.2-61.3 cubic feet
- EPA rating (city/highway): 23/31 mpg
- Fuel consumption: 29.5 mpg
- Fuel type: Regular
- Base price, base model: \$14,900
- Base price, test model: \$18,400
- As tested, including destination charge: \$23,895

the redesigned 2014 Kia Soul doesn't stray far from the corporate Habitrail. The front end is a bit tidier. There's less fussiness in the headlamp shape, and the front grille has been simplified, although cleaning and drying the lower grille is sure to drive you crazy. The car's profile looks unchanged, save for simplified side sculpting over the front wheels. The biggest change comes in the rear, where a rounded circle floats

Kia aims to satisfy your funky Soul



The 2014 Kia Soul has a slightly larger, reshaped body and upgraded interior from its predecessor.

KIA/MCT

in a sea of black, part of which is door trim, part of which is window. From a distance, you can't discern which is which. It's a unique design, one that's instantly identifiable and masterfully modern.

You can be forgiven if you think that, hatch design aside, not much has changed, because the Soul's size is close to that of the outgoing model's. It's 0.6 inches wider, 0.4 inches lower, but no longer. So you'll find that interior space is the same as before: decent up front, a bit tighter in the back and a cargo hold that, while it can hold 24.2 cubic feet of stuff, has a fairly high floor, limiting how much can be stored under the cargo cover.

The interior itself seems to

have a slightly better grade of materials, although it may have as much to do with design as anything else. Kia designers used the circle as design inspiration and it's evident throughout the interior.

The Soul is impressively equipped with an 8-inch touch screen that controls the updated Android-based navigation system, 10-speaker 350-watt Infinity sound system, and Kia's UVO concierge service. Pandora is pre-loaded into the car and can be controlled through voice commands. And yes, the audio system speakers are still framed by LED lighting that pulses to the beat of the music.

Beyond the electronics, there was a boatload of com-

fort and convenience items that pleased my hedonistic soul, such as a push-button starter, panoramic sunroof, 10-way power driver's seat, leather seat trim, heated and cooled front seats, heated rear seats and a heated steering wheel.

Even if you don't want your Soul fully loaded, which trim level you opt for makes a difference. A 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine that produces 130 horsepower powers base Souls. If you can, choose the Soul Plus or Soul Exclaim, which have the 2.0-liter four that generates an extra 34 horses. Either engine can be had with a six-speed manual or automatic transmission.

You'll find that the Soul is a bit pokey off the line, although

mid-range power is good. Choosing the manual transmission will unlock this powerplant's full potential, although the automatic is fairly well-mannered and can be shifted manually if desired. This feature came in handy during a recent snowfall, and shifts were actuated in a timely manner. That said, you will notice a lot of engine vibration at idle.

Perhaps the nicest surprise was the 2014 Soul's newfound manners. A new suspension setup, revised steering and a longer wheelbase give this car a needed dose of refinement. Impact harshness over bumps is greatly reduced, and ride motions are virtually nonexistent.

But buyers choose the Soul

for its look and low price, not performance. Drag racing isn't in the equation. Getting as much attention as Justin Bieber in a Lamborghini is. That's why Kia offers three new colors this year: Solar Yellow, Kale Green and Inferno Red. Trust me, the Solar Yellow does draw the eye of fellow motorists.

But if you're young, or young at heart, and prefer Target over Wal-Mart for its design acumen, then you'll like the 2014 Kia Soul for the same reason.

As an affordable cute ute, it functions as it's supposed to. As a design statement, it smartly stands apart at a price that won't break the bank. It's not for everyone, but that's the point.

Cue the hamsters.

UNDER THE HOOD

Your car's engine can learn your ways

By Brad Bergholdt
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have written before concerning a problem I had with my truck, and your repair suggestion was right on the money. I now have a question about something you mentioned in a recent column. In the article, you referred to a vehicle's learned values for engine management. Would you mind expanding on that? Do these computers actually learn over time? How long does it take them to learn? What do they learn? Are they in all recent models?—John Billodeaux

ANSWER: Great question, John. My first experience with engine control memories was in the early 1980s with General Motors' Computer Command Control system. Besides recording faults and setting trouble codes for later retrieval, the fuel injection system was smart enough to keep track of the amount of correction necessary to keep the exhaust oxygen sensor happy and apply the correction the next morning, even before the sensor woke up. This did wonders for cold engine drivability. The system also proactively corrected fuel delivery under all operating conditions, providing sweet

and efficient performance. The control computer, called an ECM back then, also needed to keep an accurate memory of the idle control stepper motor position, or idle speed would become very wrong.

Modern vehicles go far beyond these baby steps, learning operator behavior, degraded component characteristics and environmental conditions, among other things. With advances such as electronic throttles, variable valve timing, variable geometry turbochargers and electronically shifted transmissions, system tracking and corrections constantly occur. These can be proactively

applied to smooth performance, reduce emissions and stretch every drop of fuel. Many transmissions observe vehicle behavior when climbing a long hill and apply logic toward what may lie ahead. Shifts are also sweetened, based on earlier behavior, thanks to clutch or fluid irregularities. Air bag systems can also store "black box" information preceding a crash/deployment to assist in compiling facts afterward.

During a recent icy-cold morning startup in the High Sierras, my Silverado battery voltage dipped a bit low while cranking. The diesel engine started, but I was rewarded with an illuminated check engine light among other issues. After returning home I retrieved

codes and discovered a startling batch of them including multiple communication errors and the dreaded turbo vane position sensor code. It's a \$700 part—yikes. Thinking it odd the codes all set immediately after the slow crank, I cleared them, and they have never returned. Just a momentary loss of memories had occurred, but it was enough to cause all this plus wipe out radio stations, clock, memory seat positions, and emissions monitors. The truck relearned the needed engine, emissions, transmission and transfer case memories within an hour or so of driving, the control modules all shook hands successfully, and I reset the others. Time for two new batteries.

With vehicles more sophis-

ticated than mine, it's certainly likely that professional service may be needed to perform relearn procedures in the event of a dead or disconnected battery. In addition, I would never, ever jump-start a modern vehicle without first consulting the operator's manual for any special concerns and being absolutely sure of proper cable polarity. Most relearning can occur fairly quickly, if the right operating conditions are presented or are initiated using a scan tool.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

'12 Years a Slave' wins best picture at Oscars

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP FILM WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood named the brutal, unshrinking historical drama "12 Years a Slave" best picture at the 86th annual Academy Awards.

Steve McQueen's slavery odyssey, based on Solomon Northup's 1853 memoir, has been hailed as a landmark corrective to the movie industry's long omission of slavery stories, following years of whiter tales like 1940 best-picture winner "Gone With the Wind."

The British director dedicated the honor to those past sufferers of slavery and "the 21 million who still endure slavery today."

"Everyone deserves not just to survive, but to live," said McQueen, who promptly bounced into the arms of his cast. "This is the most important legacy of Solomon Northup."

A year after celebrating Ben Affleck's "Argo" over Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences opted this time for stark realism over more plainly entertaining candidates like the 3-D space marvel "Gravity" and the starry 1970s caper "American Hustle."

Those two films came in as the leading nominee getters. David O. Russell's "American Hustle" went home empty-handed, but "Gravity" triumphed as the night's top award-winner. Cleaning up in technical categories like cinematography and visual effects, it earned seven Oscars including best director for Alfonso Cuarón. The Mexican filmmaker is the category's first Latino winner.

"It was a transformative experience," said Cuarón, who spent some five years making the film and developing its visual effects. "For a lot of people, that transformation was wisdom. For me, it was the color of my hair." To his star Sandra Bullock, the sole person on screen for much of the lost-in-space drama, he said: "Sandra, you are 'Gravity.'"

But history belonged to "12 Years a Slave," a modestly budgeted drama produced by Brad Pitt's production company, Plan B, that has made \$50 million worldwide—a far cry from the more than \$700 million "Gravity" has hauled in. It marks the first time a film directed by a black filmmaker has won best picture.

Host Ellen DeGeneres, in a nimble second stint that seemed designed to be an antidote to the crude humor of Seth MacFarlane last year, summarized the academy's options in her open-



Director Steve McQueen, left, celebrates with the cast and crew of "12 Years a Slave" as they accept the award for best picture during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday, March 2, 2014, in Los Angeles.

WINNERS' LIST

List of winners at Sunday's 86th annual Academy Awards presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

- Best Picture: "12 Years a Slave."
- Actor: Matthew McConaughey, "Dallas Buyers Club."
- Actress: Cate Blanchett, "Blue Jasmine."
- Supporting Actor: Jared Leto, "Dallas Buyers Club."
- Supporting Actress: Lupita Nyong'o, "12 Years a Slave."
- Directing: Alfonso Cuarón, "Gravity."
- Foreign Language Film: "The Great Beauty," Italy.

- Adapted Screenplay: John Ridley, "12 Years a Slave."
- Original Screenplay: Spike Jonze, "Her."
- Animated Feature Film: "Frozen."
- Production Design: "The Great Gatsby."
- Cinematography: "Gravity."
- Sound Mixing: "Gravity."
- Sound Editing: "Gravity."
- Original Score: "Gravity," Steven Price.
- Original Song: "Let It Go" from "Frozen."
- Costume: "The Great Gatsby."
- Makeup and Hairstyling: "Dallas Buyers Club."

- Animated Short Film: "Mr. Hublot."
- Documentary Feature: "20 Feet From Stardom."
- Documentary (short subject): "The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life."
- Film Editing: "Gravity."
- Live Action Short Film: "Helium."
- Visual Effects: "Gravity."

Honorary Oscars:

- Peter W. Anderson.
- Film-processing labs over past century.
- Angelina Jolie.
- Angela Lansbury.
- Steve Martin.
- Piero Tosi.

ing monologue: "Possibility number one: '12 Years a Slave' wins best picture. Possibility number two: You're all racists."

DeGeneres presided over a smooth if safe ceremony, punctuated by politics, pizza and photo-bombing. Freely circulating in the crowd, she had pizza delivered, appealing to Harvey Weinstein to pitch in, and gathered stars to snap a selfie she hoped would be a record-setter on Twitter (It was: Long before midnight, the photo had been retweeted more than 2 million times). One participant, Meryl Streep, giddily exclaimed: "I've never tweeted before!"

But in celebrating a movie year roundly called an exceptional one, the Oscars fittingly spread the awards around. The

starved stars of the Texas AIDS drama "Dallas Buyers Club" were feted: Matthew McConaughey for best actor and Jared Leto for best supporting actor.

McConaughey's award capped a startling career turnaround, a conscious redirection by the actor to tack away from the romantic comedies he regularly starred in, and move toward more challenging films. He said he's always chasing a better version of himself, his "hero": "Every day, every week, every month of my life, my hero's always 10 years away."

"It sort of feels like a culmination," he said backstage.

Leto passed around his Oscar to members of the press backstage, urging them to "fondle" it. The long-haired actor, who

has devoted himself in recent years to his rock band 30 Seconds to Mars, gravely vowed: "I will revel tonight."

Cate Blanchett took best actress for her fallen socialite in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine," her second Oscar. Accepting the award, she challenged Hollywood not to think of films starring women as "niche experiences": "The world is round, people!" she said to hearty applause.

Draped in Nairobi blue, Lupita Nyong'o—the Cinderella of the awards season—won best supporting actress for her indelible impression as the tortured slave Patsey. It's the feature film debut for the 31-year-old actress.

"It doesn't escape me for one moment that so much joy in my life is thanks to so much pain in

someone else's, and so I want to salute the spirit of Patsy for her guidance," said Nyong'o. She also thanked director Steve McQueen: "I'm certain that the dead are standing about you and they are watching and they are grateful, and so am I."

Though the ceremony lacked a big opening number, it had a steady musical beat to it. To a standing ovation, Bono and U2 performed an acoustic version of "Ordinary Love," their Oscar-nominated song from "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," a tune penned in tribute to the late South African leader Nelson Mandela. Singing his nominated "Happy" from "Despicable Me 2," Pharrell Williams had Streep and Leonardo DiCaprio dancing in the aisles.

Pink was cheered for her rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," part of a 75th anniversary tribute to "The Wizard of Oz." And Bette Midler sang—what else?—"Wind Beneath My Wing" for the in memoriam segment—an especially heartfelt one, considering the deaths of Philip Seymour Hoffman, Harold Ramis, James Gandolfini and others.

Best documentary went to the crowd-pleasing backup singer ode "20 Feet From Stardom." One of its stars, Darlene Love, accepted the award singing the gospel tune "His Eye Is on the Sparrow": "I sing because I'm happy/I sing because I'm free."

Disney's global hit "Frozen" won best animated film, marking—somewhat remarkably—

the studio's first win in the 14 years of the best animated feature category. (Pixar, which Disney owns, has regularly dominated.) With a box-office that recently passed \$1 billion globally, the film was sure to be the biggest hit to take home an Oscar on Sunday. The film's "Let It Go" won best original song.

"We're all just trying to make films that touch people," said co-director Chris Buck backstage. "Once in a while, you get lucky."

Though the Oscar ceremony is usually a glitzy bubble separate from real-world happenings, international events were immediately referenced. In his acceptance speech, Leto addressed people in Ukraine and Venezuela.

"We are here and as you struggle to make your dreams happen, to live the impossible, we're thinking of you," said Leto.

Russian state-owned broadcaster Channel One Russia said it would not broadcast the Oscars live because of the necessity for news coverage of Russia's invasion of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula. It will instead transmit the Oscars early Tuesday morning, local time.

Venezuelan protesters, via social media, urged Oscar winners to bring attention to their plight. Anti-government protests have roiled the country in recent weeks.

Italy's "The Great Beauty" won the Oscar for best foreign language film. In accepting the award for his rumination on life and Rome's decadence, director Paolo Sorrentino thanked his heroes, including Federico Fellini, Martin Scorsese and soccer star Diego Maradona.

In her opening, DeGeneres gently mocked Hollywood's insularity, referring to the headlines that have swamped the Los Angeles area lately with a slightly less serious news event.

"It has been raining," said DeGeneres. "We're fine. Thank you for your prayers."

ABC, which aired the ceremony, hoped the drama of the best-picture race would be enough to entice viewers. The show last year drew an audience of 40.3 million, up from 39.3 million the year before when the silent-film ode "The Artist" won best picture.

There was a sense of déjà vu Saturday. Just as she hit the red carpet, Jennifer Lawrence briefly collapsed in a heap of laughter, just as she tripped ascending the stairs last year to accept best actress for "Silver Linings Playbook."

"If you win tonight," said DeGeneres, "I think we should bring you the Oscar."

SHOW BITS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Show Bits brings you the 86th annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles through the eyes of Associated Press journalists. Follow them on Twitter where available with the handles listed after each item.

McCONAUGHEY'S 'TRUE DETECTIVE:' MUM'S THE WORD

Sure he just won the Oscar for best actor for "Dallas Buyers Club," but when it came time to talk after the show, Matthew McConaughey was just as interested in what reporters thought about his new HBO series "True Detective."

The program has quickly become a hit, and McConaughey realized he was doing Oscar interviews about the same time a new episode was airing in some markets. He asked if anyone had seen it and what they thought.

Suddenly there were shouts of "No spoilers." Many in the press corps hadn't had time to tune in.

"I don't know what happens," McConaughey said, throwing up his arms.

"Aww, maybe I do and I'm not telling," he added with a knowing grin.

McCONAUGHEY'S INSPIRATIONS: GOD, FAMILY, SELF

It turns out Matthew McConaughey's hero is himself, a few years down the line.

In accepting the Oscar for best actor, McConaughey said he needs three things in his life to survive: God, family and someone to look up to as a hero.

When he was 15, the actor said, he decided that hero would be himself in 10 years. Ten years later, he pushed the deadline back another decade. Then another decade.

"My hero's always 10 years away," the 44-year-old actor said in a gracious acceptance speech. "I'm never going to attain that. That keeps me with somebody to keep on chasing."

After thanking God, his wife and children, his mother and his late father, he offered up something else long-time fans have been waiting to hear this Oscar season: "All right, all right, all right."

The signature line, from the character McConaughey played in his first film, "Dazed and Confused," brought the house down.

KISSING AND TELLING

Seconds after their film "12 Years a Slave" captured the award for best picture, producer Brad Pitt and director Steve McQueen were toasting the victory from a silver flask by the side of the Oscar stage.

Then Pitt shocked the director by grabbing his face and kissing him on the lips.

"I think I just made every man and some women jealous," the flustered director said.

"Just so you know," Pitt told him, "you were my first."

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

What interrupted Jennifer Lawrence's presentation of the best actor trophy?

That would be Ellen DeGeneres and the cast of "Dallas Buyers Club."

As the "American Hustle" actress waltzed on stage, DeGeneres cautiously exited, making sure last year's best actress winner didn't take another tumble before DeGeneres, who had earlier teased Lawrence about falling, got off stage.

While most of the crowd didn't catch the joke, Jared Leto, Matthew McConaughey and their cohorts laughed loudly, causing Lawrence to go off script.

McConaughey had the last laugh.

He won the best actor prize seconds later.

PROUD OSCAR PAPA

After downing stuffed chicken at the glitzy Night of 100 Stars Oscar viewing party at the Beverly Hills Hotel, former Oscar winner Jon Voigt stood up from his seat, looked toward the screens set up



AP

Matthew McConaughey, from left, holds his award for best actor for his role in "Dallas Buyers Club", Cate Blanchett holds her award for best actress in "Blue Jasmine", Lupita Nyong'o holds her award for best supporting actress for "12 Years a Slave," and Jared Leto holds his award for best supporting actor in "Dallas Buyers Club" in the press room during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday, March 2, 2014, in Los Angeles.

around the room and proudly watched his daughter Angelina Jolie co-present the Oscar trophy for best director.

"Angie did a splendid job. She's such a ray of light," he said afterward.

This was Voigt's second time attending the party.

He won his best actor Oscar in 1979 for "Coming Home."

His daughter won her best supporting actress Oscar in 2000 for "Girl, Interrupted."

BUZZ ALDRIN: OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD OSCAR FAN

Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin may not have any Oscars, but then how many actors can say they walked on the moon.

Aldrin decorated his tux with some of the sparkling gold medals he's collected for his real-life gravity defying feats over the years when he attended the Night of 100 Stars Oscar viewing party in Beverly Hills. This was his 10th year at the bash.

"I come here for the good-looking guys, and mostly, the good-looking girls," said Aldrin, winking. "It's the pomp and ceremony of Hollywood."

And about those medals: "I feel that girls aren't the only ones that can wear symbolic jewelry!"

BATHROOM-LINE ADMIRATION

When Zac Efron found himself behind Daniel Day-Lewis in the backstage bathroom line, he used the opportunity to express his admiration.

"I'm such a huge fan. Your work inspires us all," Efron said, shaking the Oscar winner's hand. "It's great to have someone like you to watch and be inspired by."

Although gracious, Day-Lewis didn't want to spend too much time collecting accolades.

"I'm just going to sneak in there before someone else does," he said as he made a beeline for the bathroom.

A FALSE ALARM, AND THEN AN EGOT

With his Oscar win for Best Original Song, "Let It Go" co-composer Robert Lopez has earned his EGOT.

The term, popularized by the comedy "30 Rock," describes the act of winning an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony.

Earlier in the evening, a reporter committed an Oscar faux pas backstage by congratulating "Frozen" co-director Jennifer Lee on her EGOT. Her film won the best animated feature award, but she

hasn't gathered the other three honors.

Lee had never heard the term, but it elicited groans from the nerdier crowd.

QUICKQUOTE: PENELOPE CRUZ

"I have to remember to breathe"—Penelope Cruz to Robert DeNiro before taking the Oscar stage to present the screenplay awards.

TAKING PINK TO THE LAND OF OZ

Hey TV watchers: Bet you wondered how they pulled off that "Wizard of Oz" tribute that showed Pink in Kansas and later in the Land of Oz as she sang "Over the Rainbow" during the Oscar telecast.

It took more than five projectors beaming images onto a translucent screen masking the singer to pull it off.

While the effect may have appeared magical on television, those in the Dolby Theatre audience couldn't really make out Pink for most of the song.

Still, they were impressed.

Jamie Foxx was the first on his feet after she finished.

It was Matthew McConaughey who was the loudest, shouting "WOO HOO!" multiple times.

He's her neighbor, after all.

THOSE OSCAR PIZZAS WEREN'T PROPS

That was a real pizza delivery guy, not an actor, who helped Ellen DeGeneres pass out those pies to the Oscar audience.

The show host met him in a backstage hallway to check out the goods.

"Is it hot?" she asked him. He assured her it was.

"What kind we got here?" she asked. Cheese and veggie with no cheese, he told her.

"OK. Let's go!" She said, leading the delivery guy onto the Oscar stage.

AN OSCAR MOMENT TO REMEMBER

Lupita Nyong'o's best supporting actress win wasn't just a major moment for the newcomer—it touched everyone in the Dolby Theatre—both in the audience and backstage.

Charlize Theron and Chris Hemsworth, who'd presented the previous award, stayed backstage to watch the category on a monitor. When the clip of Nyong'o's performance was shown, Hemsworth clapped and Theron said, "So good."

When Nyong'o's name was called, the stars cheered, as did the other backstage workers.

When a teary-eyed Nyong'o walked off stage and into the theater hallway, Ellen DeGeneres was waiting to greet her.

"Yay, yay, yay!" DeGeneres said. "You won an Oscar! And it was such a beautiful speech. Such composure!"

She made the actress smile by adding: "And we crashed Twitter with that photo!"

BILL MURRAY REMEMBERS HAROLD RAMIS

Bill Murray used his Oscar presenter's role to offer a tribute to the late comedy visionary Harold Ramis.

Murray, who was presenting an award for best cinematography with Amy Adams, said after the nominees' names were read, "Oh, we forgot one, Harold Ramis for 'Caddyshack,' 'Ghostbusters' and 'Groundhog Day.'"

Ramis, the writer, director and actor who was the comic mind behind those movies, died last week.

Murray appeared in each of the films.

JARED LETO, MEDIA DARLING

Best supporting actor winner Jared Leto was a hit backstage with reporters, especially after he shared his moment—and his award—with everyone.

"The first person to give their Oscar away for an orgy in the pressroom," a smiling Leto said as he passed the trophy around to everyone who wanted to have a moment with it.

"Who's your favorite Oscar winner tonight?" he asked.

When Leto invited reporters to take selfies, he was cautioned by an Academy representative that no photography was allowed in that particular room.

"If you want to get media, let the media do what they do," he replied, drawing cheers and applause.

CELEBS CUT THE RUG—EVEN LEO

By the halfway point of Pharrell Williams' colorful performance of his Oscar-nominated song "Happy" from "Despicable Me 2," all the celebs were on their feet dancing and clapping.

All except for one lone holdout: Leonardo DiCaprio.

Eventually, "The Wolf of Wall Street" came around, joining front-row mates Sandra Bullock, Amy Adams, Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper and Meryl Streep.

Immediately afterward, Pharrell and his backup dancers froze in position until a stage manager gave them the all clear. Several of the dancers let out a yelp of

excitement once they realized it was indeed over.

HANGING WITH MR. COOPER AT THE OSCARS

Bradley Cooper may not have been the winner of the supporting actor trophy, but he was the most social and smiley celeb inside the Dolby Theatre as the show began.

Within about 10 minutes of arriving, the "American Hustle" nominee smooched, in no particular order, Kristen Bell, Dax Shepard, Michael Fassbender and John Travolta before making his way to his seat.

MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD

Most stars either strut or speed walk down the red carpet, but the subjects of the Oscar-nominated documentary "20 Feet From Stardom" sang their way down.

The four backup singers featured in the film crooned in soulful a cappella, serenading television personalities and momentarily quieting the screaming fans.

The feature-length documentary chronicles the highs and lows of the backup singers who worked on some of the biggest songs of the past century but were often forgotten by fans and the music industry as a whole.

STARS GET PSYCHED UP FOR SHOWTIME

With just minutes to Oscar showtime, a crush of stars flooded into Hollywood's Dolby Theatre and quickly went through their pre-show rituals.

Jared Leto put in eye drops. Michael Fassbender dipped into the green room for a quick smoke. Kurt Russell waited outside a backstage bathroom for date Goldie Hawn.

Steve Coogan came out of another restroom and walked right into Russell and also Sally Field. Lupita Nyong'o and Jennifer Lawrence quickly joined the group.

Lawrence and Field joked that they might consider wearing adult diapers under their dresses at future awards shows to beat the bathroom line.

Jamie Foxx greeted Kerry Washington with a hug and these words: "I heard you're going to name the baby Jamie. Works for a boy or a girl!"

HOW OSCAR'S OTHER HALF WALKS

Of course status-obsessed Hollywood would have an exclusive red carpet, and then an even more exclusive red carpet.

A red velvet rope separated the A-list Oscar red carpet from the B-list one, which was parallel but closer to the fan bleachers. The social rules were as byzantine and strictly enforced as on any studio set. Or in any high school cafeteria.

■ Taking cellphone pictures from the B-list red carpet of the megastars a few feet away: allowed.

■ Shaking hands across the velvet rope and telling a star how much you admire them: allowed, but only as long as the tuxedoed security guards don't see.

■ Walking down the lower-ranking red carpet at a leisurely pace: Not allowed, as evidenced by the guards continually muttering, "Please keep moving."

An A-lister masquerading as a B-lister to get down the carpet quickly: Allowed (and taken advantage of by "Hunger Games" actor Stanley Tucci).

RED SEA OF SELFIES

Cellphone-clutching celebrities are turning the Oscar red carpet into Selfie Central.

For the first time in memory, the photographers walking this year's red carpet were clearly outnumbered by Oscar nominees, presenters and other attendees stopping to snap photos of themselves with their phones.

So many selfie shooters crowded the carpet that Oscar organizers had to remind them to keep moving to avoid a traffic jam. Or, worse yet, having someone bump into them and ruin their photo.

DeGeneres' selfie crashes Twitter



This image released by Ellen DeGeneres shows actors front row from left, Jared Leto, Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep, Ellen DeGeneres, Bradley Cooper, Peter Nyong'o Jr., and, second row, from left, Channing Tatum, Julia Roberts, Kevin Spacey, Brad Pitt, Lupita Nyong'o and Angelina Jolie as they pose for a "selfie" portrait on a cell phone during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday, March 2, 2014, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres' goal of setting a retweet record with her star-studded selfie was achieved before the Oscars telecast was even over.

During a comic bit, the Oscars

host prevailed upon actor Bradley Cooper to take a picture with her and several other stars crowding around, including Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence, Kevin Spacey, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt.

Long before midnight Sunday, the photo had been retweeted more than 2 million times, breaking a record set by President Barack Obama with the picture of him hugging First Lady Michelle

Obama after his re-election in 2012.

Twitter also sent out an apology because all of the retweeting disrupted service for more than 20 minutes after 10 p.m. ET.

3 Doors Down bassist ordered to serve house arrest

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A Nashville judge on Friday ordered the bassist for 3 Doors Down to move from Mississippi to Music City, where he will be under house arrest until his trial on vehicular-homicide charges.

The order comes after Robert Todd Harrell was arrested earlier this month on a DUI charge in Mississippi while he was out on bail awaiting trial in Tennessee.

Harrell is accused of driving under the influence in Nashville and causing a crash that killed another driver in April of 2013. Records show the 42-year-old has been arrested on three DUI-related charges in two years.

Davidson County Criminal Court Judge Mark Fishburn told Harrell not to drive under any circumstances. He ordered the musician to surrender both his passport and driver's license.

The Tennessean is reporting that prosecutors argued Friday that Harrell posed a danger to the community and should be jailed while he awaits trial.

"He's already killed somebody," Assistant District Attorney General Rebecca Valiquette said at a hearing. "The only thing that's going to keep the community safe is to put him in jail where he belongs."

But Harrell's lawyer, Nashville defense attorney Ed Ryan, argued that house arrest would be more appropriate because

Tennessee law says judges should consider the least restrictive means to ensure that a defendant shows up for trial and the community is safe.

The judge agreed with the defense but harshly criticized the musician's doctor in the courtroom, accusing the physician of prescribing Harrell too many pain pills.

"He got 360 oxycodone and 60 Oxycontin from his doctor in less than 30 days," Fishburn said.

Nashville police say the musician admitted to drinking and taking prescription drugs before causing a fatal crash that killed 47-year-old Paul Shoulders Jr. Harrell, police say, was under the influence and speeding down an interstate when he clipped the back of Shoulders' pick-up truck.

Harrell faces charges including vehicular homicide by intoxication, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, violation of the implied consent law, and possession of contraband.

Ryan, Harrell's attorney, said after the hearing that he couldn't comment beyond saying that the musician has pleaded not guilty and he is waiting for prosecutors to turn over evidence in the case to the defense.

Last week, 3 Doors Down announced it had suspended Harrell indefinitely from the band. The band is known for songs such as "When I'm Gone" and "Kryptonite."

Arby's gets Pharrell's hat for \$44K in eBay bid

NEW YORK (AP)—Arby's has won the bid for Pharrell's famous hat.

The fast food restaurant announced Sunday it paid \$44,100 for the Vivienne Westwood hat, made famous when Pharrell wore it at the Grammy Awards in January.

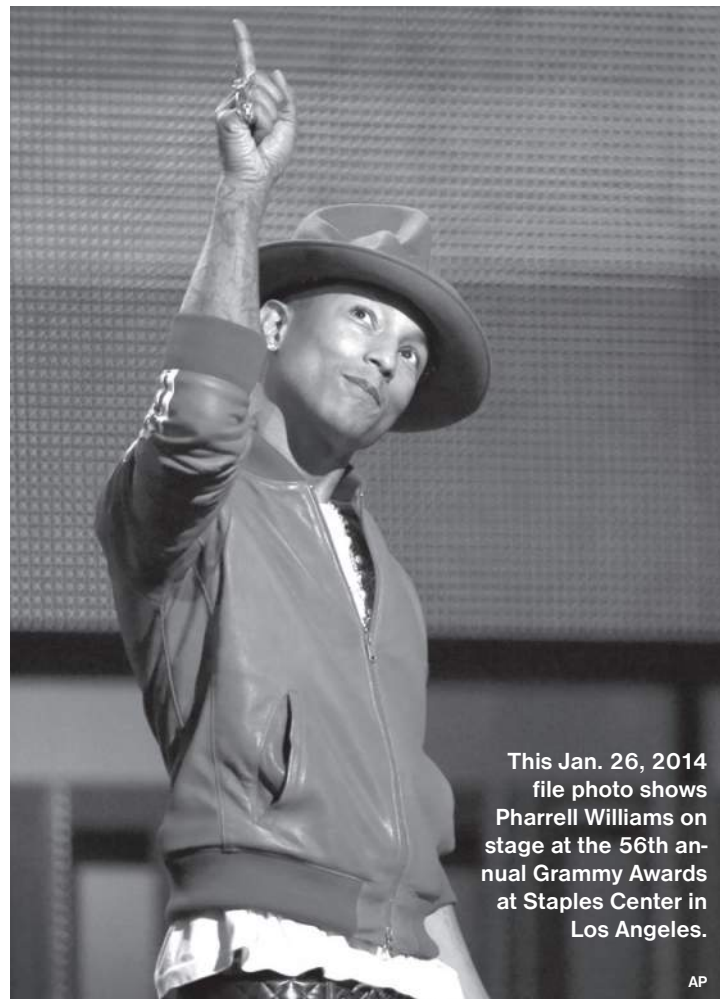
The Arby's logo uses a design similar to the brown fedora, which became a trending topic on Twitter after Pharrell sported it.

The producer-rapper-singer put

the hat on eBay two weeks ago. The earnings will support his charity From One Hand to Another.

Pharrell tweeted thanks to the buyer Sunday, to which Arby's replied: "You're welcome. We're HAPPY to support a great cause & get our hat back."

Pharrell wore a similar hat when he performed at the Academy Awards on Sunday. His No. 1 hit "Happy" was nominated for best original song.



This Jan. 26, 2014 file photo shows Pharrell Williams on stage at the 56th annual Grammy Awards at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Pregnant mom wants another princess, not a little frog

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single mother of a beautiful 2-year-old daughter. I have always pictured myself as a mom of four little princesses. When I fantasized about having children, I imagined fairy tales, ballet, cheerleading, dress-up, tea parties—all girl things.

Now I'm expecting a little boy and I feel heartbroken. When I learned my first was a girl, I couldn't wait to meet her. I bought her everything pink and frilly. Here I am eight weeks from my due date, and I have yet to buy this baby a single thing. When I look at baby boy items, I become severely depressed.

I'm no longer with the baby's father. He and his family are very excited about the baby, as he will be the only male grandchild for this generation. The truth is, the more I think about it, the more I am pulled in the direction of signing over my parental rights to my ex. At least he really wants him, whereas I don't.

I know this sounds terrible and selfish. I feel like a monster, but I can't help it. My family is totally against it. My dad says I shouldn't even allow my ex to visit our son in the hospital after he's born. No one will listen to how I feel. They keep saying my feelings will change after the baby is born, but I doubt it. I just need some guidance.

UNDESERVING TITLE OF MOMMY

DEAR MOMMY: I don't think you are a monster. I DO think you are not thinking objectively right now. Let me point out that life doesn't always go the way we fantasize. Because you imagined that you'd be the mother of four little princesses doesn't guarantee that you WILL be.

I see no need to rush into signing any papers right now, regardless of how eager your boyfriend and his parents are about the baby. There will be time for that later, if you still want to. For now, ask your parents to help you select some baby boy outfits, and tell your doctor about all of your feelings because they may be hormonal.

You might benefit from some professional counseling right now—more than I can offer you—and I urge you to get it before doing anything you might later regret.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I received a restaurant gift card from some friends. When I presented it at a restaurant, it was refused as "never having been activated through purchase."

I called my friends to let them know, thinking it was a mistake on the part of the restaurant at the time it was purchased. They said they would come by and pick up the card. I have heard nothing from them since, and I haven't written a thank-you note or made any further attempt to contact them.

Was I right in calling them? Do I now ignore the whole thing?

GIFT CARD DENIED

DEAR G.C.D.: You did nothing wrong in calling your friends to tell them what happened. They may not have picked it up because they were embarrassed, or because they really never intended to activate it. I don't think it's necessarily worth ending a relationship over—IF you want to continue a friendship with people whose credibility you question.

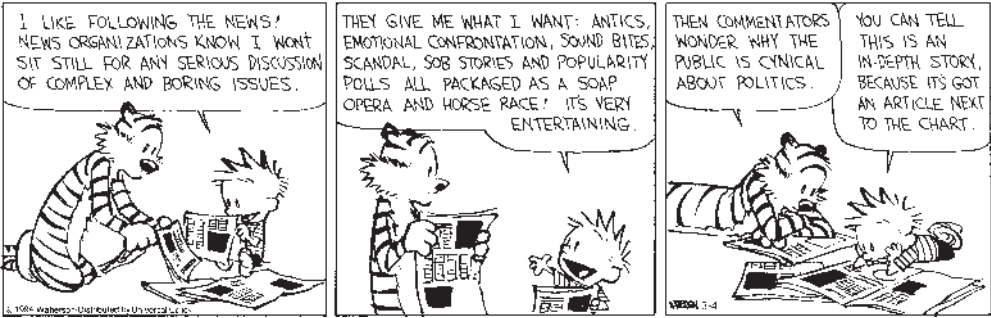
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



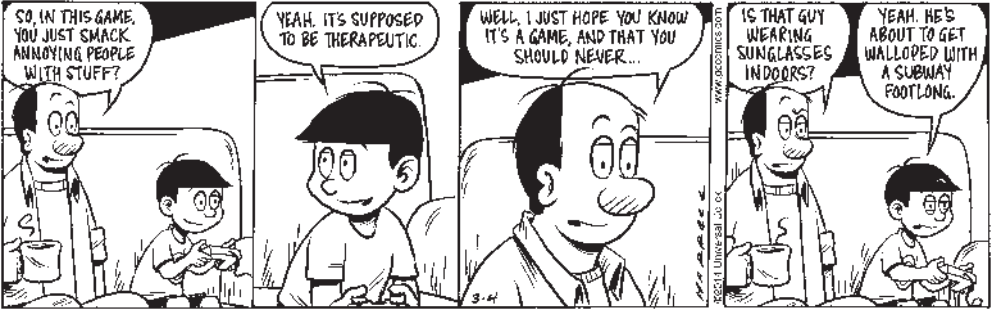
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



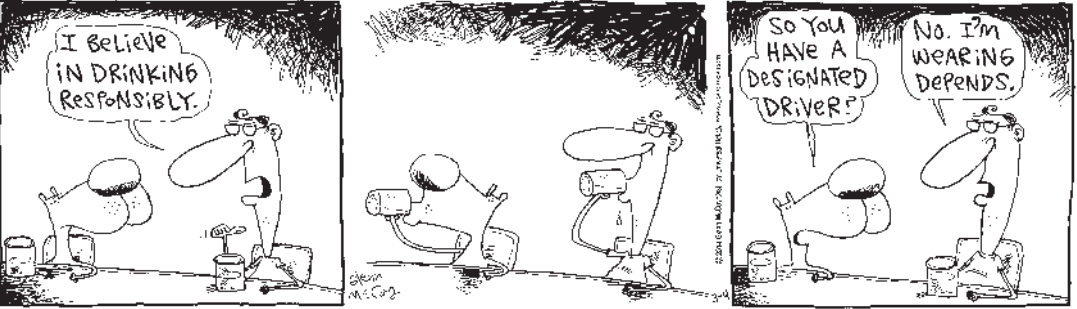
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

40 — Hills, CA

43 Fort Lauderdale's county

47 "Look —, Angel"

49 Pennsylvaniana port

50 Winged city

51 Carnival ledge

52 Window isn't so

53 Rocky peak

55 Lofty

DOWN

1 False god

2 Fairy tale baddie

3 Guy

4 Check out the merch

5 Bride's bounty

6 Mimicked

7 Aachen article

8 Query to a brown cow

9 "If — a Hammer"

10 Paddock papa

11 Lays down the lawn

17 Bulletin board item

19 Capp and Pacino

22 Ram's mate

23 Printable file

24 Altar affirmative

25 Apiece

26 Help

27 Time of your life?

28 Sinbad's bird

29 Period

31 Parched

34 "Falcon Crest" setting

35 Acknowledge

36 Id counterpart

37 Basest

39 Passion

40 Football's Ocho-cinco

41 Golf goal

42 Somalian super-model

43 Vivacity, musically

44 Met melody

45 Stream-let

46 Farmer's home?

48 Illustrations

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	I	L	O	L	O	S	P	O	T
L	O	U	T	A	L	I	A	R	G
O	N	C	E	D	E	N	A	T	U
W	A	Y	L	A	Y	A	M	U	S
D	E	N	O	T	I	N	G	I	N
A	G	A	O	R	D	E	R	A	U
N	O	T	I	D	E	N	O	U	N
E	R	O	D	E	S	U	N	I	C
D	E	N	I	Z	E	N	S	A	R
A	N	A	T	A	B	E	O	V	I
M	O	L	E	M	A	S	N	O	N

Yesterday's answer 3-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chaz Bono, 45; Patricia Heaton, 56; Mykelti Williamson, 57; Catherine O'Hara, 60.

Happy Birthday: Change may be your focus this year, but making the right move will be difficult. Following someone else's dream will not help you reach your goals. Keep your emotions out of the equation, or you will be taken for granted. Instead, work toward a realistic goal that will bring you rewards. Put yourself first. Your numbers are 9, 13, 23, 28, 39, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep moving at a rapid rate, and you'll reach your destination, whether it is emotional, physical or mental. You'll grab attention along the way, but don't slow down to bask in the limelight when there is so much to do. Stay focused. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take heed of the advice offered. You don't have to follow through, but it will give you the input that you need to tweak your plans. Romance is in the stars, and taking time to say "I love you" will pay off. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your thirst for adventure and desire to scope out new people, places and pleasures can lead to confusion. Pick and choose what you do next. Change can be good, but you must remember what your true motives are. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a creative approach to everything you do and say. Having the wisdom to realize your options will help you get ahead. Don't let anyone take you for granted. Give demanding

people direction rather than doing their work for them. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your thing, but don't let your emotions come between you and making a good choice. Romantic encounters may be costly if you mix business with pleasure. Travel and socializing will bring you the insight and desire to set your plans in motion. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Hustle and stay on top of whatever it is you are asked to do or that will bring you greater freedom and clout. Be leery of joint financial ventures. Keep your money separate if you expect to make it grow. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Assess your current personal and professional situations. You may have a unique idea, but if you are unwilling to do the work, you will not get the credit. Don't pass off work that you should be doing on your own. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your imagination wander and turn your ideas and thoughts into reality. Don't be afraid to do things a little differently. It's your uniqueness that will draw attention and offers. Make plans to do something special with the one you love. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Being receptive and a good listener is what will help you change other people's opinions. Live and learn what will fit your situation and help you make your way through a maze that has not been honest or straightforward. Hang in there. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let things get to you. Someone is likely to get or give you the wrong impression. Don't be too quick to judge. Take a moment to review what's happened and how you can make the most of your situation. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Participate and show interest, and you will stand out and meet someone just as innovative as you. The experiences you share will get people thinking about making personal improvements. Be the one to spark enthusiasm, and you will get things done. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let anyone misguide you. Get motivated and take action. Waiting for someone to make the first move will put you behind when you should be in the lead. Don't sit back; pursue your dreams. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are curious but cautious. You are hardworking and innovative.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		4		2					
	1				3	8			
9					5		6		
				8		9	4		
4			3	1	6			5	
	2	5		9					
	7		1					2	
		3	6					8	
				4		5			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	2	8	7	5	9	3	4
8	9	5	6	3	4	2	1	7
7	4	3	9	2	1	8	5	6
1	2	6	7	8	3	4	9	5
5	3	7	1	4	9	6	2	8
4	8	9	5	6	2	3	7	1
3	6	1	4	9	7	5	8	2
2	5	8	3	1	6	7	4	9
9	7	4	2	5	8	1	6	3

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DATING AGENCIES Solution: 7 letters

REB MEM COU PLE ST O
G W E P V T S P T U G C H A T
N B O E O E A I F A A N S L O
I H T E L R M E I S O P R K H
L A D G T M T R U I I E S I P
F I N N O S R A T H N O I N I
V I E C A A L P S N C P T G C
S R N T M I N I R O L E A T
E G O D N R O D I D M E N T U
C N H K C I A T E E E P L R H R
N I P S T T E E M E A A E E E
A D E A E R P A I P N O T R S
M D L T I L T E T S I G N U P
O E E A E C A F P R O F I L E
R W T H H K E E S T N E I L C

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Casual, Chat, Clients, Commit, Companion, Couples, Criteria, Date, Description, Dinner, Face, Fate, Find, Fling, Gather, Goal, Help, Hope, Internet, Link, Love, Marriage, Match, Meet, Member, Partner, People, Photo, Pictures, Profile, Relationships, Romance, Seek, Signup, Singles, Speed, Talking, Tasteful, Telephone, Terms, Time, Video, Wedding

Yesterday's Answer: Six Pack

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38 call 1-800-642-6490. Order online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzle sets.)

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(03) CONSTRUCTION MANAGER
Rate: \$2,100.00 to \$2,650.00 per month
Must be a college graduate or with a minimum of 5 years experience as Construction Manager. With knowledge on how to plan, direct, or coordinate, with subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerning the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting and implementation. Includes managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

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Parker returns, leads Spurs over Mavs, 112-106



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tony Parker had 22 points and seven assists in his return from a six-game absence, leading the San Antonio Spurs' balanced attack in a 112-106 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday night.

Tim Duncan scored 17 points, Kawhi Leonard added 16 and Boris Diaw had 13 points and 10 rebounds for San Antonio. Manu Ginobili had 15 points and seven assists and Tiago Splitter had 11 points as the Spurs extended their winning streak to three games.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 22 points, Vince Carter added 21 and Monta Ellis had 17 for the Mavericks, who have lost eight straight to the Spurs.

Parker looked refreshed after not playing since Feb. 10 for what was officially listed as "rest," but unofficially was due to a series of lower body maladies.

The French point guard made his first shot, exploding through the lane from the top of the right side of the 3-point line to the left side of the rim for a leaning layup beyond the reach of Samuel Dalembert.

On the ensuing possession, Parker drove into the heart of the paint to draw the defense and fired a pass to Leonard for an open 3-pointer that gave San Antonio a 5-2 lead.

Parker finished the game 10 for 15, punctuating it with a left-handed layup to avoid Dalembert's reach with 45 seconds remaining.

Carter kept the Mavericks in the game almost single-handedly in the first half, draining three straight 3s in the final 4 minutes after missing his first two attempts. He finished the first half shooting 6 for 11 from the field while scoring 15 points.

Ellis banked in a 3-pointer to the dismay of Ginobili, pulling Dallas within 48-47 at the half.

San Antonio could not extend their advantage to more than seven points in the third until Ginobili scored eight straight points, including a pair of 3-pointers, for its biggest lead at 78-67 with a minute remaining.

Bulls 109, Knicks 90

In Chicago, Joakim Noah had 13 points, 12 rebounds and 14 assists for his fifth career triple-double, leading Chicago over New York.

Chicago had seven players score in double figures in its ninth win in the last 10 games. The Bulls also reached 100 points for the fourth consecutive game for the first time since Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 2010.

D.J. Augustin had 21 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter as Chicago (33-26) improved to 21-8 since Jan. 1 and a season-high seven games above .500 overall. Jimmy Butler scored 19 points and Carlos Boozer had 14.

While the Bulls are galloping



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker (9), of France, is defended by Dallas Mavericks' Samuel Dalembert (1) as he drives to score during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 2, 2014, in San Antonio.

Jimmer Fredette excited to join Chicago Bulls

CHICAGO (AP)—Jimmer Fredette wanted to start over. The Chicago Bulls wanted to improve their outside shooting.

Each side is hoping for a perfect match.

Fredette joined the surging Bulls on Sunday after the team announced it had signed the sharp-shooting guard for the rest of the season. The 6-foot-2 Fredette then played the last three minutes of Chicago's 109-90 victory over the New York Knicks, drilling a long jumper for his first basket with his new team.

"These guys did a great job the whole game and got a big lead and I was able to get into the game," Fredette said. "I don't really know the plays or anything like that. Just knew a few simple things and ran those. But it felt good to get in there in front of the fans, and to have a great win like that was great for us."

Fredette, the 10th overall pick in the 2011 draft, was

bought out by the Sacramento Kings on Thursday and cleared waivers on Saturday. He is averaging just 5.8 points and 11.1 minutes in his third season, but is shooting 49 percent from 3-point range.

The Bulls, who have won nine of 10, had been looking for more outside shooting since they lost Marco Belinelli in free agency last offseason, and then traded Luol Deng to Cleveland in January.

"Jimmer is going to be a hell of a player here," said teammate Jimmy Butler, who had 19 points against New York. "I hear he works incredibly hard, and we all know he can shoot the ball."

The knock on Fredette is his defensive ability and finding a way to get open for his accurate shot, but coach Tom Thibodeau said he wants to come to his own conclusions about what the former BYU star can do on the court.

"He's got to learn defen-

sively what to do in terms of team defense and that's usually the biggest adjustment," Thibodeau said before the game. "But the fact that he can shoot the way that he can, I think it complements our primary scorers as well."

Fredette became a top NBA prospect when he led the nation in scoring at 28.5 points per game during his senior year with the Cougars, who made it to the final 16 in the NCAA tournament in his last season. He was The Associated Press player of the year, but he never lived up to his billing in Sacramento after the Kings acquired him in a draft-day trade with Milwaukee.

It was clear his time with the Kings was coming to an end when they decided not to pick up his option for 2014-15 before this season.

"I appreciate everything that happened in Sacramento," Fredette said. "It was character building for me

strained tendon in his foot.

Curry scored 34 points and David Lee had 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Warriors lost for just the second time in their past seven games.

Thunder 116, Bobcats 99

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 28 points and Russell Westbrook had 26 to lead

continuing to go out and play hard. I feel like I progressed as a player. Even though sometimes you don't get the minutes you want to, you've just got to continue to work hard and know that if you keep playing hard and doing the right things then eventually things will turn your way."

One of the top attractions for Fredette with the Bulls is Thibodeau, who has a history of helping lower-tier free agents turn into valuable commodities. Belinelli and Nate Robinson flourished in Chicago last season, and D.J. Augustin has played well since he signed with the Bulls in December.

"This time of the year, I think you're always looking to get insurance for your team," Thibodeau said. "You like his makeup. I think he can grow. I think he'll get better. So we'll see how it unfolds. But you also have to remember you have to put the team first."

Oklahoma City past Charlotte.

Durant made just 8 of 24 field goals, but sank all 12 of his free throws.

Westbrook was 10 of 12 from the floor in 25 minutes in his fifth game since returning from right knee surgery. Reggie Jackson scored 17 points and Serge Ibaka had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which won its second straight

after losing its first three games following the All-Star break. Oklahoma City outrebounded the Bobcats 44-29.

Al Jefferson scored 25 points and Anthony Tolliver added 17 for the Bobcats, who had won four straight before losses to San Antonio and Oklahoma City.

Suns 129, Hawks 120

In Phoenix, Gerald Green hit 5 of 6 3-pointers in the first half to help Phoenix score 79 points before the break, the most in the NBA this season, as the Suns held on to beat Atlanta.

The first-half total was two shy of the US Airways Center record for points in a half. The previous high for Phoenix in any half this season was 67, but 63 percent shooting, including 12 of 18 on 3-pointers in the first half, shattered the team mark.

Green finished with 33 points and Phoenix tied a season high with 15 3-pointers and set a season high with its 129 point output.

Jeff Teague had 29 points and eight assists for the Hawks, and Mike Scott added 20 points.

Magic 92, 76ers 81

In Orlando, Florida, Tobias Harris scored a career-high 31 points as Orlando beat Philadelphia for the second time in less than a week, extending the 76ers losing streak to 14 games.

Nikola Vucevic had 18 points and 17 rebounds for Orlando, which outscored Philadelphia 26-12 in the fourth quarter to earn the win.

The 76ers' skid is their longest since 1994, when they lost 15 straight, and includes a loss last Monday to the Milwaukee Bucks, the NBA's worst team. The 76ers have the NBA's second-worst record, while the Magic have the third-worst.

Thaddeus Young had 29 points for Philadelphia and Michael Carter-Williams added 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Magic guards Jameer Nelson and Arron Afflalo were out with injuries.

Pacers 94, Jazz 91

In Indianapolis, David West scored 25 points, Paul George added 22, as Indiana beat Utah for its fifth straight victory.

Indianapolis native Gordon Hayward had 21 points and Derrick Favors scored 17 for the Jazz, nine of them in the first eight minutes as Utah opened a 14-4 lead.

A dunk from Favors cut the Pacers' lead to 89-86 with a minute left to play, and West missed a jumper to give Utah a chance to tie with 35 seconds remaining. Hayward cut the Indiana lead to one, but Lance Stephenson sank two free throws to seal the win.

Ian Mahinmi came off the bench to score nine points for the Pacers and provide key minutes, as Roy Hibbert struggled to contain Favors.

Henley wins playoff at Honda Classic



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP)—Russell Henley chipped in for birdie and then hit into the water on his next shot for double bogey. He watched Rory McIlroy throw away a lead with a double bogey and a bogey, only to stand over a 12-foot eagle putt on the next hole with a chance to win.

A wild Sunday at PGA National ended in a four-man playoff, with Henley making good on his second chance at the par-5 18th to win the Honda Classic.

"This doesn't feel real," Henley said.

It didn't look much differently, starting with Tiger Woods walking off the course after 13 holes because of lower back pain, and ending with a series of blunders over the closing holes of a tournament that no one seemed to want to win.

Eight yards away from where he had hit drive on the 18th in regulation, Henley ripped another 5-wood and aimed a little more right. It barely cleared the bunker and stopped 40 feet away on the green for a two-putt birdie that was good enough to win when McIlroy, Ryan Palmer and Russell Knox could only make par.

In regulation, Henley turned what should have been a good chance at birdie into a struggle for par by missing the green well to the left and chunking his chip only halfway to the hole. He had to two-putt from 60 feet for a par and a 72, joining the playoff at 8-under 272.

"So the next time, I just said, 'All these guys are probably going to make birdie.' And I just



Russell Henley kisses the trophy after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament, Sunday, March 2, 2014 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. AP

needed to trust my swing and put the best swing I can on it and not be too worried about where it goes," Henley said.

For McIlroy, it was his tournament to lose, and he did just that.

He started with a two-shot lead and closed with a 74. The biggest blow came on the 16th hole, when he tried to hit 6-iron out of the bunker and over the water, caught too much sand and went in the water for double bogey. Still tied for the lead, he went long on the 17th and failed to save par from the bunker. Down to his last shot, he delivered the best one of the day—

a 5-wood from 236 yards that dropped 12 feet from the hole.

His eagle putt for the win just slid by on the right. That turned out to be his best chance. In the playoff, with a drive about 10 yards longer, McIlroy went into a back bunker and couldn't keep his next shot on the green.

"I didn't play well enough to deserve a win today," McIlroy said.

It was his second straight tournament in stroke play where he crashed out in the final group. Last month at the Dubai Desert Classic, he was two shots out of the lead and stumbled on the back nine to a 74.

"Seventy-four today wasn't good enough to get the job done," McIlroy said. "Even if I had won, it would have felt a little bit undeserved in a way. So when you go out with a two-shot lead, you have to play well and you have to go out and win the thing. And if I had won today, I would have counted myself very lucky. Just got to pick myself up, get back at it and try and get myself into contention at Doral next week and try and get the job done."

Palmer was the only player in the final six groups to break par with a 69 on a day when PGA National showed some bite,

with an average score of 71.8. Even so, he missed putts inside 8 feet on the last five holes, including a 5-footer for par on the 18th that would have won it in regulation.

In the playoff, he missed a 10-foot birdie putt to the left.

Knox needed a birdie in regulation for a chance to win, and instead went from the bunker to deep rough to over the green before making a 10-foot par putt and a 71. He was the only player to lay up in the playoff, and he missed a 20-foot birdie attempt.

Woods missed all the action.

He was 12 shots out of the lead and 5-over par for the day

when he began gingerly placing the ball on the tee and picking it out of the cup. He removed his cap to shake hands with Luke Guthrie on the 13th tee—the farthest point from the clubhouse—and called for a ride back to the parking lot.

Woods said he would get treatment every day before deciding whether to play Doral next week.

Henley only had two top 10s since winning the Sony Open last year in his debut as a PGA Tour member. He was overwhelmed by the all the perks from winning so early, and now gets to experience it again.

The victory not only gets the 24-year-old from Georgia into the Masters, he moved into the top 50 in the world ranking and qualified for the Cadillac Championship next week at Doral. He also gets in two more World Golf Championships, and secured his spot in the PGA Championship.

What should ease the pain for McIlroy is another shot at winning, and the shot that nearly made that happen.

Trailing by one shot on the 549-yard closing hole, he hit 5-wood at the flag, a shot reminiscent of the 5-iron Woods hit two years ago for eagle and a 62. Except that McIlroy didn't make the putt, and he didn't get a chance better than that one.

McIlroy still had a better week at the Honda Classic when he was No. 1 in the world and walked off the course after 26 holes out of sheer frustration. This time, it was Woods who was No. 1 and walked off the course, surely concerned about increasing health issues.

Jeremy Maclin, Eagles agree to 1-year contract



PHILADELPHIA

(AP)—Jeremy Maclin gets a second chance to play in Chip Kelly's offense.

Maclin and the Philadelphia Eagles agreed on a one-year contract, preventing the wide receiver from becoming a free agent next month. Maclin missed the entire 2013 season after tearing his right ACL in training camp.

"I'm excited to play in Chip's offense, I'm excited to be able to help this team get to the next level," Maclin said after the deal was announced Friday. "This is a place I can showcase my skills. I'm comfortable with my teammates and this is the right spot for me."

Maclin said the team offered him a five-year contract, but the two sides couldn't agree on terms.

"This is the place I wanted to be," he said. "This is where I was most interested in what was going on. By them offering me a long-term deal, that

Ex-NFL safety Sharper surrenders in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former NFL All-Pro safety Darren Sharper surrendered to Los Angeles police after being named in a warrant involving a rape case in New Orleans.

Sharper, 38, also is under investigation in sexual assault cases in Florida, Nevada and Arizona and has pleaded not guilty to rape charges in Los Angeles.

Sharper's surrender Thursday night had been arranged in advance, LAPD Officer Bruce Borihan said. He was being held at the downtown Metropolitan Detention Center.

In a bail motion filed in the California case, Los Angeles County Investigator John Maccharella described a pattern in which the former football star met women at clubs or parties and lured them to a hotel room,

where they were allegedly drugged and raped.

Lawyers for Sharper, who played in the NFL from 1997 to 2010 primarily with the Green Bay Packers, have said they would prove that any sexual contact Sharper engaged in was welcomed.

The motion says the incidents happened in the past five months, with two occurring within a day in Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

Maccharella said he was told a woman went to a New Orleans bar with Sharper, consumed an alcoholic beverage provided by him and blacked out. She awoke the next morning while being sexually assaulted, the bail motion stated, noting that an exam later showed Sharper's DNA was present.

Another man facing rape charges in the New Orleans case turned himself in to police there on Friday.

Erik Nunez, 26, was booked on two counts of aggravated rape stemming from alleged assaults last September in New Orleans, police said.

Police issued warrants on Thursday for Sharper and Nunez. They face charges in the alleged rape of two women at the same location Sept. 23, police spokeswoman Remi Braden said.

Sharper's New Orleans-based attorney, Nandi Campbell, and attorney Leonard B. Levine, who represents Sharper in the California case, did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

Braden said she did not know

whether Nunez had an attorney.

The assault investigation in New Orleans is ongoing and additional arrests are possible, Braden said.

If convicted in the California case, Sharper could face more than 30 years in state prison. If convicted of aggravated rape in Louisiana, both Sharper and Nunez could face life imprisonment.

Sharper was selected All-Pro six times and chosen for the Pro Bowl five times. He played in two Super Bowls, one with the Green Bay Packers as a rookie and a second with the New Orleans Saints.

Sharper retired after the 2010 season. He is an analyst for the NFL Network, which has suspended him indefinitely without pay.

made me comfortable that I was in their long-term plans."

The former first-round pick

led the team with 69 receptions for 857 yards and seven touchdowns in 2012. He's one

of eight receivers to in NFL history to have at least 55 catches and 750 yards in each of his first

four seasons in the league.

"I'm excited to see Jeremy play in our offense," Kelly said.

"You saw the potential of that in the spring and summer but obviously he didn't get an opportunity last year. However, what was great to see was how he was literally here every single day since being injured. You can see he has a passion for the game of football. When he was on the field last spring and summer, you saw his intelligence, you saw his great route-running ability and you saw how tough of a one-on-one match-up he could be."

The NFC East champion Eagles had a busy week before signing Maclin on Friday. They gave new deals to wide receiver Riley Cooper and center Jason Kelce on Thursday and extended All-Pro left tackle Jason Peters' contract Wednesday.

"Jeremy is an ideal player for our scheme with his combination of size, speed, strength and route-running ability, in addition to his dynamic playmaking talent," general manager Howie Roseman said. "We're happy to see him rehabbing well and to get him under contract for the 2014 season."

BergerMan Triathlon set for Saturday at Paupau

 Triathlete and lawyer Joshua Berger is sponsoring a tournament this weekend dubbed as BergerMan Triathlon.

The event will start and end at Paupau Beach this Saturday with registration beginning at 6am and the race kicking off at 6:30am. Entry fee is only \$5 and includes a finisher t-shirt and raffle prizes. The race will have two distances, the sprint and Olympic.

The bike courses for both distances are road and will bring participants to as far as the Bird Island Lookout. Those who can't do the swim leg in the waters of Paupau Beach are still welcome to come and can take part in the bike and runs races only. Teams are also welcome.

Triathletes who are hoping to be part of the CNMI Team that will compete in the Pacific Triathlon Championships in Guam are encouraged to

join the BergerMan Traithlon as the weekend event will serve as one of the qualifying tournaments for the June 21 and 22 competition.

According to an email from Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation or Tri Saipan's Brad Ruszala, the CNMI will be sending three male and three female athletes to the Olympic distance (1.5K swim, 40K bike, and 10K run) division of the Pacific Triathlon Championships. Athletes who

will be selected (based on qualifier results, eligibility, and availability) will get an all-expense paid trip to Guam.

This weekend's BergerMan Triathlon will also prepare local bets for next month's XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon.

For more information, contact Ruszala at 285-4874 or send email to bradinthosand96950@yahoo.com or to sjoshuaberger711@yahoo.com. *(Saipan Tribune)*

9th Saipan Marathon set for April 19

April 19, 2014, will mark the 9th running of the Saipan Marathon in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Marathon will again include half marathon, 10K, and 50K courses, as well.

Early registration for the 50K and marathon is \$55 for U.S. and CNMI participants, and \$45 for

half-marathon and 10K participants. Early registration must be made by March 7, 2014. An additional late fee of \$10 will apply to registrations submitted after March 7. The last day to register for the event will be on March 14, 2014, at 5pm. Registration will include the

awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

The start will take place at the American Memorial Park at 4:30am for the 50K and the Marathon, at 5:45am for the half-marathon, and at 6am for the 10K. This year the marathon will implement a cut-off time for both the full marathon and 50K. The cut-off time will be 9am at the halfway point.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on April 18, 2014, at 4pm without exception.

Entry forms are available at the MVA office located in on Beach Rd. in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 664-3210 or through email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. *(MVA)*

ENFORCERS

From Page 28

bat twice and nailing two runs apiece. Dennis Cabrera was one of the four batters to make two runs, as he went 2-for-2 at bat and had two RBIs. The Enforcers got two more earned runs in the first inning, stole home twice, and bagged two off wild pitches, while the other runs were courtesy off the Hustlers' blunders.

The Hustlers, which had already used three pitchers in trying to stop the Enforcers' juggernaut in the first inning, recorded only two runs at the top of the first. The Hustlers reached home off the Enforcers' errors and failed to mount a comeback in the ensuing plays after going run-less in the next two in-

nings and tallying only one run in the fourth. They made only two hits and three walks against Enforcers pitchers Ignacio Mendiola and Cabrera.

Mendiola started out for the Enforcers, but was recalled to the bench quickly after giving up two runs, walking three, and striking one. Cabrera came in at the latter part of the first inning and earned two early strikeouts. The relief pitcher added two more strikeouts in the second inning, as the Hustlers were done after only three batters with the leadoff one flying out at third.

Cabrera kept the pitching chores in the third and gave up the first hit, a single made by Hustlers leadoff batter Leon Camacho, who was later caught stealing second. The next two batters

also returned to the dugout off a fly out and 6-2 putout play, while Cabrera, who gaved up a run off a passed ball in the fourth, stranded two runners and ended the Hustlers' hopes after getting his sixth strikeout in the game.

Comets I 13, Little Legals 3

In the second game, the Comets I remained undefeated in five games after downing the Little Legals.

Catcher Clarence Cabrera and shortstop and relief pitcher Vincent Nakamura had three RBIs each in the Comets I's victory with the latter going 3-for-4 at bat and the former hitting 2-for-4.

Cabrera and Nakamura each blasted a two-run double at the top of the second inning to put the Comets I on top,

6-2, after trailing early in the game. The Comets I's two other runs in that frame came off Jesse Taitano's RBI single and Nakamura's run off a Little Legals error at first base.

The Comets I slowed down a bit in the next three innings, making only three runs, but it kept control of the match, as the Little Legals failed to score in the next four innings after drawing first blood. The Little Legals were quiet from the second to fifth inning, as Comets I starting pitcher Francisco Frederick held his own at the mound and the rest of his teammates stayed strong on defense. Though he gave up six hits and one earned run in 4.2 innings pitch, Frederick stranded six runners and struck out seven batters.

3 ENJOY

From Page 28

Lizama went 5-for-13 in five games with the Padres for a batting average of .384, tying the Braves' Jeremy Atalig. Atalig's teammates Haini Blas (5-fo-14/.357), Lucio Kalen (4-for-12/.333), and Jun Rabauliman (5-for-16/.312) rounded out the Top 5.

Completing the batting leaders list, which was based on 12 or more times at bat were the Padres' T.J. Sablan (.266), the Lions' Davie Matagolai (.250) and Keene Leon Guerrero (.250), the Braves' Frankie Lieto (.235), the Lions' Cedric Ada (.214) and Justin Santos (.214), and the Padres' Ray Tenorio (.200), Steven Cabrera (.200), and Thomas Reyes (.200).

In the runs category, Kalen is on top with his 10, followed by Johan Delos Reyes, who has seven so far.

Frankie Lieto and Cabrera are tied in the most doubles scored with two apiece, while four players have made one triple each so far this season. In the RBIs race, Frankie Lieto has 10 to lead Lizama, Sablan, and Tenorio, who have four apiece.

In the Senior League, the Jets' Kenji Yamagata hit 7-for-12 in four games for an average of .583. He was the lone slugger to record a batting average of at least .500, as the second-ranking Nathan Camacho, also of the Jets, holds .466 off a 7-for-15 performance at bat.

Two Red Sox players occupy the No. 3 and 4 spots with Jhace Palacios recording .444 (8-ffor-18) and Jobe Reyes registering .400 (6-for-15). The Jets' K.J. Deleon Guerrero also has a batting average of .400 to tie Reyes in fourth place.

Others on the list are the Enforcers' Verlance Secharmidal (.375), the

Red Sox' Craig Aguon (.375), the Jets' Jesse Brel (.375), the Red Sox's Vincent Leon Guerrero (.375) and Jerald Cabrera (.357), the Jets' Devyn Flores (.357), the Enforcers' Fred Songao (.333), the Lions' Cary Camacho (.333), the Fielders' Kainoa Wanket (.307), and the Enforcers' Peyton Lizama (.307), Darion Jones (.285), and Cedric Camacho (.285).

Jerald Cabrera has the most runs so far with eight, Franlin Lizama and Jones lead in doubles with two each, while Secharmidal is on top of triples scored with two, and Palacios has a field-best eight RBIs.

In the Junior League, the Falcons' Benen Iguel nosed out the Jets' Nathaniel Torres for the batting race lead, as the former logged .541 against the latter's .521. In seven games, Iguel went 13-for-24, while Torres was 12-for-23.

Joining the Top 2 on the list are

the Falcons' Don Fejeran (.423), the Jets' Brandon Pua (.423), the Comets' Aurel Mendiola (.375), the Jets' Noel Cabrera (.347), the Comets' Austin Hocog (.347) the Enforcers' Virgil Secharmidal (.333), the Comets' Austin Indalecio (.333), the Falcons' Oscar Lizama (.333), the Fielders' Kimo Angailen (.272) and Don Ada (.269), the Enforcers' Ethan Babauta (.269), the Falcons' Ace Evangelista (.227), the Enforcers' Nathan Nogis (.227), and the Falcons' Jay Kalen (.181).

Besides making it to the Top 2 of the batting chart, Iguel and Torres also have the most runs so far with 11. Iguel is on top of the doubles and RBIs categories, too with two and eight, respectively.

Meanwhile, results in the pitching races in the three divisions will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

Scoring by quarters: 16-7, 26-18, 40-26, 55-38.

Varsity Game

MHS 91 – Mendoza 19, Factor 16, Arciaga 16, Malonzo 10, Ano 8, Cayading 6, Capuyon 5, Espinosa 4, Yap 3, Iglecias 2, Gabaldon 2.

KHS 63 – Je. Santos 22, Lampkin 15, Jo. Santos 10, Sakisat 6, Palino 4, Faisao 4, Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-11, 39-24, 71-42, 91-63.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	33	26	.559	—
Brooklyn	28	29	.491	4
New York	21	39	.350	12½
Boston	20	40	.333	13½
Philadelphia	15	45	.250	18½

Southeast Division

Miami	42	14	.750	—
Washington	31	28	.525	12½
Charlotte	27	32	.458	16½
Atlanta	26	32	.448	17
Orlando	19	43	.306	26

Central Division

Indiana	46	13	.780	—
Chicago	33	26	.559	13
Cleveland	24	37	.393	23
Detroit	23	36	.390	23
Milwaukee	11	47	.190	34½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	43	16	.729	—
Houston	40	19	.678	3
Dallas	36	25	.590	8
Memphis	33	25	.569	9½
New Orleans	23	36	.390	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	45	15	.750	—
Portland	41	18	.695	3½
Minnesota	29	29	.500	15
Denver	25	33	.431	19
Utah	21	38	.356	23½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	41	20	.672	—
Golden State	36	24	.600	4½
Phoenix	35	24	.593	5
L.A. Lakers	20	39	.339	20
Sacramento	20	39	.339	20

HONDA CLASSIC SCORES

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP)—Scores Sunday from the \$6 million Honda Classic at the PGA National Resort and Spa, the 7,140-yard, par-70 Champion course:

FINAL

Russell Henley (500), \$1,080,000	64-68-68-72—272
Russell Knox (208), \$448,000	70-63-68-71—272
Rory McIlroy (208), \$448,000	63-66-69-74—272
Ryan Palmer (208), \$448,000	68-66-69-69—272
Billy Hurley III (110), \$240,000	70-67-67-69—273
David Hearn (95), \$208,500	67-70-70-67—274
Will MacKenzie (95), \$208,500	67-68-69-70—274
Stuart Appleby (78), \$168,000	69-69-65-72—275
Luke Donald (78), \$168,000	67-68-68-72—275
Sergio Garcia (78), \$168,000	72-68-68-67—275
David Lingmerth (78), \$168,000	69-68-68-70—275
Keegan Bradley (54), \$94,800	69-68-66-73—276
Paul Casey (54), \$94,800	72-68-69-67—276
Martin Flores (54), \$94,800	69-70-68-69—276
Freddie Jacobson (54), \$94,800	69-69-67-71—276
Chris Kirk (54), \$94,800	69-67-72-68—276
Matteo Manassero, \$94,800	67-71-71-67—276
George McNeill (54), \$94,800	70-67-69-70—276
Andres Romero (54), \$94,800	70-68-71-67—276
Adam Scott (54), \$94,800	68-69-70-69—276
Chris Stroud (54), \$94,800	69-66-73-68—276
Daniel Summerhays (54), \$94,800	70-65-69-72—276
Jhonattan Vegas (54), \$94,800	70-66-66-74—276
Matt Every (43), \$45,400	66-73-65-73—277
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano (43), \$45,400	71-69-68-69—277
Rickie Fowler (43), \$45,400	69-69-69-70—277
Luke Guthrie (43), \$45,400	67-73-65-72—277
Chesson Hadley (43), \$45,400	73-66-69-69—277
Patrick Reed (43), \$45,400	71-67-70-69—277
Brian Stuard (43), \$45,400	72-68-65-72—277
Tyrone Van Aswegen (43), \$45,400	67-71-68-71—277
Nick Watney (43), \$45,400	71-69-70-67—277
Derek Ernst (35), \$30,375	66-69-71-72—278
Zach Johnson (35), \$30,375	67-70-68-73—278
Brooks Koepka, \$30,375	71-68-68-71—278
Seung-Yul Noh (35), \$30,375	69-68-72-69—278
Rory Sabbatini (35), \$30,375	65-71-68-74—278
Brendan Steele (35), \$30,375	69-66-71-72—278
Josh Teater (35), \$30,375	70-68-71-69—278
Nicholas Thompson (35), \$30,375	68-70-66-74—278
Jason Kokrak (28), \$22,200	70-66-70-73—279
Ted Potter, Jr. (28), \$22,200	71-66-67-75—279
Cameron Tringale (28), \$22,200	69-69-66-75—279
Camilo Villegas (28), \$22,200	71-68-69-71—279
Boo Weekley (28), \$22,200	68-67-73-71—279
Thomas Bjorn, \$15,600	69-66-70-75—280
James Driscoll (21), \$15,600	68-71-70-71—280
Graeme McDowell (21), \$15,600	70-67-72-71—280
Troy Merritt (21), \$15,600	68-69-72-71—280
Carl Pettersson (21), \$15,600	72-67-68-73—280
John Senden (21), \$15,600	72-63-73-72—280
Lee Westwood (21), \$15,600	68-65-73-74—280
Charlie Wi (21), \$15,600	69-71-68-72—280
Mark Wilson (21), \$15,600	67-69-73-71—280
Jamie Donaldson, \$13,680	65-69-72-75—281
Charles Howell III (15), \$13,680	72-68-69-72—281
Tim Wilkinson (15), \$13,680	70-69-67-75—281
Stewart Cink (12), \$13,320	69-68-69-76—282
Derek Fathauer, \$13,320	67-71-69-75—282
Brian Harman (12), \$13,320	72-67-69-74—282
D.A. Points (10), \$13,020	70-69-70-74—283
Hudson Swafford (10), \$13,020	67-71-68-77—283
Brendon de Jonge (7), \$12,660	66-64-76-78—284
Ken Duke (7), \$12,660	68-71-72-73—284
Justin Hicks (7), \$12,660	70-70-71-73—284
Vijay Singh (7), \$12,660	69-71-68-76—284
Trevor Immelman (4), \$12,300	69-69-72-75—285
Jeff Overton (4), \$12,300	69-71-71-74—285
Ben Crane (2), \$12,120	69-68-71-78—286

x-won on first playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

The division top finisher went up by 6 at the end of the first canto, 17-11, and padded its lead in the second period, 39-24, with Kobe Mendoza, Mike Arciaga, and Prince Factor teaming up in the breakaway. Mendoza, Arciaga, and Factor scored 6 points apiece in the second frame to lift the Dolphins to a 15-point halftime edge.

The trio continued to pull the trigger in

the third quarter, while Justin Cayading also found his target later in that canto, making 6 of the Dolphins' last 8 points. By the end of that period, the Dolphins were already ahead by 29, 71-42, and it was just time before they earned the perfect record in the regular season.

Mendoza top-scored for the Dolphins with his 19 points, while Factor and Arciaga chipped in 16 each. Jess Santos led Kagman with his game-high 22 markers.

Meanwhile, Kagman prevailed

in the junior varsity game against MHS, 55-38, to finish the division with a 6-2 record and beat the Dolphins in the tiebreak. MHS topped Kagman in their first duel, but only won by 6 points, 37-31.

JV Game

KHS 55 – Muna 15, Tenorio 14, Lampkin 8, Retan 7, Jones 7, Maratita 4.

MHS 38 – Borja 12, Manalili 11, Vivero 6, Pamintuan 4, Deocares 2, Peter 2, Cristobal 1.

Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon

PHOTOS By MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY



A Tinian resident offers water to a competitor in the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon.



Hidea Miyazuka finishes the swim leg of the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon last Feb. 15. Miyazuka finished first in the triathlon in 2:42:13.



Tyce Mister of Saipan finishes the swim leg of the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon. Mister finished second in the triathlon in 2:48:33.



Bikers tackle the hills of Broadway in the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon last Feb. 15.



A competitor in the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon makes the scenic transition from the swim to bike leg.



A competitor in the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon approaches Suicide Cliff, one of the historic sites along the course.



**Parker returns,
leads Spurs over
Mavs, 112-106**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Henley wins
playoff at
Honda Classic**

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28 TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dolphins sweep varsity

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School was unbeaten in the regular season of the varsity division of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League, capping its perfect run in eight games with a 91-83 trouncing of Kagman High School last Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

With their flawless record in the double-round robin league, the Dolphins earned the top seeding in the double-elimination tournament that will be played this weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The pennant champions are aiming to dethrone Tinian High School, which defeated MHS in last year's finals, 84-78, to clinch back-to-back titles.

The Stallions, who were not

able to play in the regular season, are given the automatic third seeding and will be joined in the tournament by the second-ranked Saipan Southern High School (5-3), Kagman (4-4), Eucon International School (3-5), Mount Carmel School (0-8), and Agape Christian School.

The ACS Torchbearers are seeded seventh in the field and gained entry to the tournament despite missing the varsity action, as they played in the junior varsity division.

The Dolphins ruled the varsity division after another double-digit winning margin against the Ayuyus. MHS defeated Kagman by a baker's dozen, 64-51, in their first meeting on Jan. 31, rallying past the Ayuyus in the second half. In their second outing, the Dolphins led from start to finish, pulling away from Kagman in the second quarter.

See DOLPHINS on Page 26



An Enforcers pitcher catches a throw from home plate during an earlier game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last month at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The Enforcers defeated the Hustlers last Sunday, 15-3.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Enforcers stun Hustlers for second win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The JPO Enforcers caught a big fish in previously unbeaten Hustlers, cruising to a 15-3 victory in the curtain-raiser in the Major division game in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



The Enforcers pummeled the Hustlers right at the get-go to get the victory after only three and a half innings and hand the latter their first loss in four matches. The Enforcers scored 12 runs at the bottom of the first inning with four of their batters going at

See ENFORCERS on Page 26



3 enjoy solo lead in batting race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three players are alone at the top spot in the batting race of their respective divisions in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League as of last Friday.

In the Big League division,

the Padres' Lancaster Sechar-midal is ahead of 14 others with his .533 batting average. He was 8-for-15 after their 8-7 win over the Lions last Tuesday to place ahead of teammate A.J. Lizama in the batting chart and four Braves slugger in the Top 5.

See 3 ENJOY on Page 26

A Falcons batter has all eyes on the Red Sox pitcher during their first round game in the Junior League last month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Michael Yap goes up for a shot against Kagman High School's Jesse Santos, left, and Jason Lampkin during their first round meeting in the MISO varsity caging at the MHS Gymnasium.